

### Digital Governance in the 21stCentury: The LiTCoDE Framework for Transparency, Leadership, and Technological Evolution A Comparative Study of Mexico and Vietnam

Medel-Ramírez, Carlos and Medel-López, Hilario and Lara-Mérida, Jennifer

Universidad Veracruzana / IIESES, Universidad Veracruzana /IA, Universidad de Xalapa / ED

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Carlos Medel Ramírez ORCID: 0000000256416270 IIESES / Universidad Veracruzana

> Hilario Medel López ORCID 0000000200728654 IA / Universidad Veracruzana

Jennifer Lara Mérida ORCID 0000000321215652 ED / Universidad de Xalapa

Series

21st Century Societal Challenges: Empowerment, Inclusion, Ethics, and Technological Insights in Governance and Social Well-being

**Book 001** 

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# Digital Governance in the 21stCentury: The LiTCoDE Framework for Transparency, Leadership, and Technological Evolution

A Comparative Study of Mexico and Vietnam

#### Carlos Medel Ramírez,

ORCID: 000000256416270
Investigador del Instituto de Investigaciones y Estudios
Superiores Económicos y Sociales
Universidad Veracruzana
Coordinador del Observatorio ObservesIIESES UV
Autor de correspondencia: Email: cmedel@uv.mx

#### Hilario Medel López, ORCID 000000200728654 Investigador del Instituto de Antropología Universidad Veracruzana

Jennifer Lara Mérida ORCID 0000000321215652 Universidad de Xalapa Escuela de Derecho

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#### Series

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#### Introduction

In today's fast-paced digital landscape, the spotlight is on the pursuit of transparent governance as a critical facet of global public administration. As we immerse ourselves in the digital era, brimming with endless opportunities, it becomes essential to reflect on the convergence of governance, clarity, and technological innovation. By exploring the journeys of Mexico and Vietnam, nations with diverse backgrounds and administrative paradigms, we present the LiTCoDE Framework. This model offers a fresh perspective on addressing transparency challenges of the modern age.

The LiTCoDE Framework, symbolizing Leadership, Transformative Public Management, Collaboration, and Digital Evolution, stands out as a guidepost for nations aiming to amalgamate technology with their governance strategies, ultimately nurturing a transparent ethos. This approach posits that while digital tools play a pivotal role, genuine transparent governance stems from a leadership dedicated to openness, an ethos of teamwork, and a relentless drive for public management renewal.

Although Mexico and Vietnam differ in terms of geography and cultural backdrop, they converge in their goals: to bolster their administrative frameworks amidst digital metamorphosis and champion transparency as a core value. Their tales, marked by both hurdles and achievements, offer an insightful comparative analysis. This exploration dives deep into the intricacies of policy execution, leadership dynamics, and the catalytic impact of united endeavors in both countries. Yet, every path of transformation is dotted with challenges. The digital revolution, despite its promise of vast knowledge accessibility, brings with it substantial barriers. From the looming shadows of fake news and security breaches to the task of guaranteeing universal tech access, the journey towards transparency remains intricate. Herein lies the essence of our discourse: to unearth the challenges, unravel the strategies adopted by Mexico and Vietnam, and thereby forge a roadmap that other nations might emulate.

In dissecting the experiences of these two nations, we don't merely present a comparative study but a tapestry woven from threads of trials, tribulations, and triumphs. Through the lens of the LiTCoDE Framework, we aim to glean actionable insights that transcend borders, offering a blueprint for nations worldwide. The objective isn't just academic elucidation but the fostering of an international collaborative spirit, an ethos of shared learning, and mutual growth.

The narrative of transparency in the digital age is a tale of endless possibilities, punctuated by challenges but illuminated by the beacon of hope that frameworks like LiTCoDE represent. Through a meticulous exploration of Mexico and Vietnam's experiences, this presentation aspires to light the path for nations and leaders, reaffirming the belief that in the confluence of leadership, technology, and collaboration, lies the promise of a transparent and accountable future.

# Navigating Transparency, Governance, and Technology in the Digital Age:

#### A Theoretical Framework

In today's technologically-driven world, global administrations are harnessing the power of tech to amplify openness, responsibility, and proficiency in governing their constituencies. The swift progression in the realm of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has revolutionized the mechanisms by which governments communicate with their citizens and facilitate services.

In this digital epoch, countries that emphasize strong leadership, foster a culture of collaboration, and ensure broad access to technology within their administrative frameworks are poised to benefit from greater clarity, a robust defense against fake news, and an agile response to digital risks and obstacles, unlike those who overlook these aspects.

This section explores a comprehensive theoretical framework comprising ten key theorems. These theorems elucidate the intricate relationships between leadership, collaboration, technology, transparency, and governance in the digital age. Each theorem contributes to our understanding of how nations can navigate the evolving landscape of global governance and digital transformation.

#### Technology redefines governance and transparency

In the current era, technology has become an essential pillar to promote transparency and ensure accountability. (Lo, 2023) highlights the potential of communication tools to strengthen transparency in the Chinese judicial system, emphasizing the importance of the "rule of law". In turn, (Fera et al., 2020) point out how technological innovations can enhance governance and balance economic disparities. Meanwhile, (Govada, 2020) envisions a future with sustainable cities where culture and technology intersect. Despite its benefits, technology poses challenges; (Manus & Larraín, 2021) stress the significance of applying democratic principles in automated processes to safeguard human rights in this new digital paradigm.

## Transparent Governance: The Need for Visionary Leadership and Collaboration

Transparency in governance stands as a paramount concern in contemporary society and scholarly discussions. (Jaqua & Jaqua, 2021) articulate the necessity for visionary leadership, collective collaboration, and transformative public management to ensure transparent governance. Echoing these thoughts, (Hogan, M. et al., 2017) underscore the indispensable role of transparency in reinforcing democratic governance, suggesting that open data platforms can significantly bolster public trust. Their assertion underscores the pivotal role visionary leadership holds in enhancing transparent governance. In a similar vein, (Ulnicane et al, 2021) delve into the governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI), positing that it demands collaborative efforts spanning government, civil society, and private sectors, intertwined with transparent and accountable decision-making. The emphasis is placed on the innovative leadership and effective public management, which together secure the societal benefits emanating from Al's progressive development and usage. Adding to this, (Shen, Cheng, & Yu, 2022) highlight visionary leadership and collaboration as the cornerstone for transparent governance, offering an insightful perspective into the structural elements vital for transparent governance.

Expanding the horizon, (Chimaobi et al., 2023) amplify the discourse on transparent governance. They stress the imperative for progressive leadership, cooperative initiatives, and transformative public oversight as essential components. Their insight illuminates the vital emphasis leaders must

place on accountability, public involvement, and operational efficiency, which collectively serve as the backbone of exemplary governance. Further accentuation is laid on the significance of proficient public service, an independent judiciary, and a comprehensive legal framework, indispensable in ensuring meticulous contract enforcement and judicious administration of public resources. This comprehensive view provides a holistic insight into the multifaceted dimensions that transparent governance encapsulates, reflecting the collective scholarly commitment to enhancing transparency in diverse governance structures.

#### **Unified Digital Progress and Governance**

In the quest for shared governance and digital progression, numerous experts have contributed critical insights. (Clark, 2022) propounds the introduction of an 18th Sustainable Development Goal termed "Digital Connection." This aspires to unify nations in achieving equitable digital access, ensuring employment, education, and healthcare reach, especially in remote areas. The emphasis is on empowering marginalized demographics and enhancing resilience to climate change, agricultural productivity, and financial access.

Echoing these sentiments, (Xu, She & Liu, 2022) advocate for digitalization, a tool believed to synchronize nations on governance and digital advancement goals, promoting societal development. This harmony in digital progression is not a siloed effort. Gill & Germann (2022), and (ÓhÉigeartaigh et al.,2020) collectively discuss the global response necessary for seamless digital technology deployment worldwide. Both sources underscore the need for a shared dialogue process, prioritizing common values and principles. They propose robust models for collaborative digital governance and pragmatic measures to optimize the functionality of current multi-stakeholder internet governance structures.

Further emphasizing the collaborative imperative, (Kanaev,2022) underscores the critical role of cooperation in digital landscape navigation. Using ASEAN as a quintessential example, Kanaev highlights the region's synergistic efforts, including the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce and the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, both targeted at enhanced digital integration and collective growth among member nations. Building on this, (Xiao, 2023) spotlights the ASEAN-Russia collaboration, a venture exploring diverse realms like e-commerce, cybersecurity, and digital skills enhancement. This partnership, rooted in bolstering connections and mutual digital progression, accentuates the essential role of global partnerships in maximizing digital advancement benefits. It affirms the criticality of synchronized digital strategies and policies for holistic and equitable digital growth and integration, signifying a unified global stride towards a digitally connected future.

#### The Digital Era: Access, Security, and Equity

In the digital age, balancing information accessibility and data security is crucial. (García Saisó et al., 2022) emphasize enhanced information and research data access, but also point to burgeoning data security and privacy issues. They highlight the digital divide, where vulnerable populations have diminished digital health service access.

(Asenjo, 2022) affirms the digital era's dual nature. To fully harvest its benefits, emerging challenges, underscored by (Kaihlanen et al.,2022), must be addressed. They note increased digital health service usage, leading to heightened security and privacy concerns, particularly for vulnerable groups. This scenario exacerbates digital inequality and underscores the urgent need for digital health equity. Besides, (UNCTAD, 2022) explores the monetary aspect, discussing payment system changes in developing countries. Although not directly addressing information accessibility, they elucidate the risks and opportunities these changes pose to monetary stability and security in these nations. The discussion underscores the necessity of making digital payment options available to households to prevent exacerbating the digital divide and the associated cryptocurrency risks. (Brivio & Brivio, 2021) emphasize the significant positive impact of technology integration into early

education. Despite these advantages, the digital era also brings substantial challenges in ensuring equitable technology access, emphasizing the urgent need for solutions to these emerging problems.

These references collectively illuminate the delicate balance between information accessibility, data security, and equitable technology access in the growing digital age. The discussed works highlight critical areas requiring immediate attention and action to ensure that the digital era's benefits are universally accessible while minimizing associated risks and challenges.

These considerations are presented below in the following Figure 1.

Technology's Impact on Governance and Transparency: A Multifaceted Exploration Equitable Technology Access Visionary Collaboration Critical Focus Leadership Data Security Governance Transparent Governance Information Technology **Global Synergies** Accessibility nology and Governanc The Digital Era Collaborative Learning Digital Comprehensive Progression Conceptual Summary

Figure 1
Technology's Impact on Governance and Transparency: A Multifaceted Exploration

Source: Own elaboration

Unified Digital Progress

#### **Collaborative Learning: Key to Global Transparency**

In the intricate world of local governments, collaborative efforts and organizational synchronization are essential in fostering transparency and citizen involvement. (Grec, 2021) accentuates the significance of collaboration in creating an Open State platform within local authorities. The framework of Open State emerges as a pivotal structure for addressing the intricacies of political and institutional coordination in Public Administrations, presenting a potential solution to these perennial issues.

Contrastingly, (Acevedo & Ariza-Buenaventura, 2021) argue that while valuable, collaboration is not the sole pathway to global transparency. They suggest that a multifaceted approach, encompassing policy implementation, technology utilization, and active involvement from various societal sectors, is instrumental in achieving transparency. Nonetheless, the shared learning and experience this collaborative approach provides enhance the understanding and addressal of pivotal issues, paving the way for more robust and effective solutions. Further bolstering this argument, (Home & Arévalo,

2021) champion the Open Government model, utilizing technology to enhance transparency, participation, and collaboration. They contend that this innovative approach can substantially augment democratic accountability within public organizations, offering a more transparent and participative governance model. (Torres & Mancillas, 2020), while not explicitly underscoring the necessity of collaborative learning for global transparency, highlight the positive impact of the Innovation in Transparency Award in Sonora, Mexico. They posit that the award has bolstered transparency and democratic practices within the region, albeit further analysis is imperative to gauge its comprehensive impact.

In essence, while collaborative learning is not the singular solution, it undeniably forms a significant component in the global effort to enhance transparency, citizen participation, and democratic practices, complemented by technology and multi-stakeholder involvement.

#### An Exploration of Axiomatic Foundations:

#### Integrated Governance and Technology Framework

The Integrated Governance and Technology Framework (IGTF) is a strategic tool designed to explore the intricate connections among technology, governance, and transparency within the broader context of public management and technology. IGTF facilitates a comprehensive understanding of how these elements interact and mutually influence one another. It serves as a structured means to dissect and evaluate essential concepts, enabling informed decisionmaking in both governmental and technological domains.

IGTF facilitates a comprehensive understanding of how these factors interact and mutually influence one another. It provides foundational concepts through the presented axioms, while the subsequent postulates and theorems offer a detailed exploration of these interactions. This structured framework empowers stakeholders to decipher the complex interplay of factors and their impact on achieving successful or unsuccessful outcomes in the realms of public governance and transparency.

Below are 5 axioms of the IGTF.

Axiom 1: Technology (T) redefines governance (G) and transparency (Tr): 1, 2, 3, 4

 $T \to (G \wedge Tr)$ 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See. Lo, V.I. (2023). Legal Reform in China: Technology, Transparency, and Enculturation. Law, Technology and Humans. <sup>2</sup> See. Fera Yolanda, Sigid Eko Pramono, Muhammad Hasbi Zaenal (2020) Effect of Internal Control, Information Technology and Audit on Good Amil Governance Practices: Evidence from BAZNAS Kalimantan, Indonesia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Govada Sujata (2020) Smart and Sustainable City Framework with Smart Cultural Precinct as Case Study. Urbanie & Urbanus. https://uandujournal.com/abstract.php?id=33

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See. Coddou Mc Manus, A., & Smart Larraín, S. (2021). La transparencia y la no discriminación en el Estado de bienestar digital. Revista Chilena de Derecho y Tecnología. Vol. 10 Núm. 2 (2021): Segundo semestre 2021 https://rchdt.uchile.cl/index.php/RCHDT/article/view/61034

**Axiom 2:** Transparent governance (GT) requires visionary leadership (L), collaboration (C), and transformative public management (M): <sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup>

$$GT \rightarrow (L \wedge C \wedge M)$$

**Axiom 3:** Nations (N) can converge on shared goals (O) in governance (G) and digital progress (D), regardless of their backgrounds: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

$$N \rightarrow (O \land G \land D)$$

**Axiom 4:** The digital era has a dual nature (D), with information accessibility (I), data security challenges (S), and equitable access to technology (A): <sup>16, 17, 18, 19, 20</sup>

$$D \rightarrow (I \land S \land A)$$

<sup>5</sup> See. Jaqua, E.E., & Jaqua, T. (2021). Visionary . leadership. Quantum Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities. Vol. 2 No. 6 (2021): QJSSH. https://www.qjssh.com/index.php/qjssh/article/view/109

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See. Hogan, M. et al. (2017). Governance, Transparency and the Collaborative Design of Open Data Collaboration Platforms: Understanding Barriers, Options, and Needs. In: Ojo, A., Millard, J. (eds) Government 3.0 – Next Generation Government Technology Infrastructure and Services. Public Administration and Information Technology, vol 32. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-63743-3 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See. Ulnicane, I., Eke, D.O., Knight, W., Ogoh, G., & Stahl, B.C. (2021). Good governance as a response to discontents? Déjà vu, or lessons for Al from other emerging technologies. Interdisciplinary Science Reviews, 46, 71 - 93.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See. Shen, Y., Cheng, Y., & Yu, J. (2022). From recovery resilience to transformative resilience: How digital platforms reshape public service provision during and post COVID-19. Public Management Review, 25, 710 - 733.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See. Chimaobi O., Okon B.B., Udoh E., Eme E.O. (2023), Leadership and the Success of African Integration and Development Agenda: Juxtaposing the African Continental Free Trade Area - AFCFTA and Agenda 2063. African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research 6(2), 190-206. DOI: 10.52589/AJSSHRQBOEBIGD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See. Clark, S. (2022). Including Digital Connection in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: A Systems Thinking Approach for Achieving the SDGs. Sustainability, 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See. Xu, J., She, S., & Liu, W. (2022). Role of digitalization in environment, social and governance, and sustainability: Review-based study for implications. Frontiers in psychology, 13, 961057. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.961057

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See. Gill, A. S., & Germann, S. (2022). Conceptual and normative approaches to Al governance for a global digital ecosystem supportive of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Al and ethics, 2(2), 293–301. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-021-00058-z

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See. ÓhÉigeartaigh, S.S., Whittlestone, J., Liu, Y., Zeng, Y., & Liu, Z. (2020). Overcoming Barriers to Cross-cultural Cooperation in AI Ethics and Governance. Philosophy & Technology, 1-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See. Kanaev, E.A. (2022). Asean-Russia cooperation: The digital dimension. Southeast Asia: Actual Problems of Development.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> See. Xiao, M. (2023). Research on Strategies for Improving the Governance Efficiency of International Cooperative Education. International Journal of Engineering Technologies and Management Research, 10(4), 41-53. doi: 10.29121/ijetmr.v10.i4.2023.1322

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See. García Saisó, S., Marti, M. C., Mejía Medina, F., Pascha, V. M., Nelson, J., Tejerina, L., Bagolle, A., & D'Agostino, M. (2022). Digital transformation for more equitable and sustainable public health in the age of digital interdependence.. Pan American journal of public health, 46, e1. Doi 10.26633/RPSP.2022.1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See. Asenjo Alarcón, J.A. (2022). Implicancias de la era digital en la generación Z. Vol. 5 Núm. 1 (2022): Revista Científica Curae. 60–74. Doi: 10.26495/curae.v5i1.2202

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See. Kaihlanen, A. M., Virtanen, L., Buchert, U., Safarov, N., Valkonen, P., Hietapakka, L., Hörhammer, I., Kujala, S., Kouvonen, A., & Heponiemi, T. (2022). Towards digital health equity - a qualitative study of the challenges experienced by vulnerable groups in using digital health services in the COVID-19 era. BMC health services research, 22(1), 188. Doi 10.1186/s12913-022-07584-4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> UNTAD (2022). Public payment systems in the digital era: Responding to the financial stability and security-related risks of cryptocurrencies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> See. Brivio Ramirez, A. J., & Brivio, . A. M. (2021). Filosofía de la educación en la era digital. Alpha Centauri, 2(2), 58–69. https://doi.org/10.47422/ac.v2i2.35

**Axiom 5:** Collaborative learning (AC) is fundamental to global transparency efforts: <sup>21, 22, 23</sup>

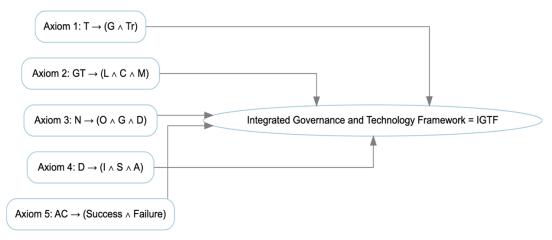
#### AC → (Success ∧ Failure)

#### Where:

(T)
(G)
(Tr)
(GT)
(L)
(C)
(M)
(N)
(O)
(D)
(I)
(S)
(A)
(AC)

We can represent these axioms together in a general notation as follows. See Figure 2.

Figure 2
Integrated Governance and Technology Framework = IGTF



Source: Own elaboration

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> See. Grec, M.C. (2021). Políticas públicas sobre transparencia, participación ciudadana y colaboración en el desarrollo de una plataforma de Estado Abierto en la Ciudad de Mendoza. Millcayac - Revista Digital de Ciencias Sociales. MILLCAYAC - Revista Digital de Ciencias Sociales / Vol. VIII / N° 15 / septiembre 2021 - febrero 2022. ISSN 2362-616x. (pp. 85-116).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Acevedo Alonso, J.A., & Ariza-Buenaventura, E.D. (2021). Rendición de cuentas y transparencia en Latinoamérica: un análisis crítico a partir del estudio de caso del sector público de generación de energía eléctrica colombiano entre 2010 y 2016. Innovar.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> See. Acevedo-Alonso, J. A.,& Ariza-Buenaventura, E. D. (2021). Rendición de cuentas y transparencia en Latinoamérica: un análisis crítico a partir del estudio de caso del sector público de generación de energía eléctrica colombiano entre 2010 y 2016. Innovar, 31(82), 107-124. <a href="https://doi.org/10.15446/innovar">https://doi.org/10.15446/innovar</a>, v31n82.98423

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Home Arias, P. ., & Arévalo, J. C. (2021). La transparencia y la rendición de cuentas mecanismos del "gobierno abierto" como instrumento de compromiso público y responsabilidad democrática en las organizaciones públicas. Documentos De Trabajo FCACEN 1 https://doi.org/10.22490/FCACEN 4693

Trabajo ECACEN, 1. https://doi.org/10.22490/ECACEN.4693

<sup>25</sup> Torres, M.B., & Mancillas, V.S. (2020). Innovación gubernamental y transparencia: aproximación crítica a cuatro casos en Sonora, México.

According to Figure 2, the Integrated Governance and Technology Framework (IGTF) is a logical representation that models the relationships and dependencies among key elements in the context of governance and technology. This framework consists of five axioms that establish fundamental statements about how technology, governance, and related aspects interact. According to Figure 1, this general notation incorporates all the axioms and their logical relationships.

The **first axiom** (T  $\rightarrow$  (G  $\land$  Tr)) states that technology (T) influences governance (G) and transparency (Tr). In other words, technological advancements can have a significant impact on how entities are governed and on the visibility of government actions.

The **second axiom** (GT  $\rightarrow$  (L  $\land$  C  $\land$  M)) asserts that transparent governance (GT) requires visionary leadership (L), collaboration (C), and transformative public management (M).

The **third axiom** (N  $\rightarrow$  (O  $\land$  G  $\land$  D)) indicates that countries (N) have the potential to unite around common objectives (O) in the realms of governance (G) and digital advancement (D), irrespective of their distinct histories.

The **fourth axiom** (D  $\rightarrow$  (I  $\land$  S  $\land$  A)) indicates that the digital era (D) has a dual nature, involving both information accessibility (I) and data security challenges (S) and equitable access to technology (A).

Finally, the **fifth axiom** (AC  $\rightarrow$  (Success  $\land$  Failure)) states that collaborative learning (AC) is essential for global transparency efforts and can lead to both success and failure in these efforts.

Let:

Governance and Technology Framework = IGFT

Then:

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{IGTF} = (\mathsf{T} \to (\mathsf{G} \land \mathsf{Tr})) \land (\mathsf{GT} \to (\mathsf{L} \land \mathsf{C} \land \mathsf{M})) \land (\mathsf{N} \to (\mathsf{O} \land \mathsf{G} \land \mathsf{D})) \land \\ (\mathsf{D} \to (\mathsf{I} \land \mathsf{S} \land \mathsf{A})) \land (\mathsf{AC} \to (\mathsf{Success} \land \mathsf{Failure})) \end{array}$$

IGTF provides a logical framework for understanding and analyzing the complex interactions among technology, governance, transparency, and other factors, enabling subject matter experts to make informed decisions in the governmental and technological domains.

#### Interconnections for Governance in the Digital Age:

#### **Fundamental Postulates**

In the digital age, governance dynamics are rapidly evolving, underscored by 15 foundational postulates. Central themes highlight the transformative role of digital innovations in shaping transparency and governance. Effective leadership is paramount for good governance, while collaboration bolsters its structures.

The era presents challenges like misinformation and security threats, emphasizing the necessity for inclusive technological strategies and genuine transparency. Mutual learning among nations facilitates shared solutions to common challenges. Constant digital adaptation underscores national agility's importance, and effective governance is shown to transcend cultural and geographical boundaries.

These postulates offer insights into navigating governance in our digital world.

Postulate 1: Digital innovations (ID) redefine Transparency and Governance:

$$ID \rightarrow (Tr \wedge G)$$

Postulate 2: Effective leadership (L) is crucial for Good Governance:

$$L \rightarrow GG$$

Postulate 3: Collaboration (C) strengthens governance structures (G):

$$C \rightarrow G$$

Postulate 4: Public management transformation (M) is linked to digitalization (D):

$$M \rightarrow D$$

Postulate 5: Shared objectives (O) can exist in Governance, regardless of backgrounds (N):

$$O \rightarrow (G \land N)$$

**Postulate 6:** The digital era presents security challenges (S), equitable access (A), and misinformation (DI):

$$D \rightarrow (S \wedge A \wedge DI)$$

Postulate 7: Misinformation (DI) hinders transparency (Tr):

$$DI \rightarrow \neg Tr$$

**Postulate 8:** Transparency (Tr) requires inclusive and equitable technological strategies (ET):

$$\mathsf{Tr} \to \mathsf{ET}$$

**Postulate 9:** Mutual learning among nations (N) can lead to shared solutions (SC) to common challenges (DC):

$$(N) \rightarrow SC$$

Postulate 10: Constant digital adaptation and evolution (AD) require national agility (N):

$$AD \rightarrow N$$

**Postulate 11**: Effective governance policies (GE) transcend geographic (FG) and cultural (C) borders:

$$GE \rightarrow (FG \land C)$$

Postulate 12: Strengthened governance structures (GF) combat digital threats (AD):

**Postulate 13:** A collective ethos of learning (CA) and sharing promotes joint growth (CJ) and development among nations (N):

$$(CA \land N) \rightarrow (CJ \land N)$$

**Postulate 14:** True transparency (Tr) implies both access to information (I) and its integrity (IN):

$$Tr \rightarrow (I \wedge IN)$$

Postulate 15: Proactively addressing digital era challenges (D) is vital for transparency (Tr):

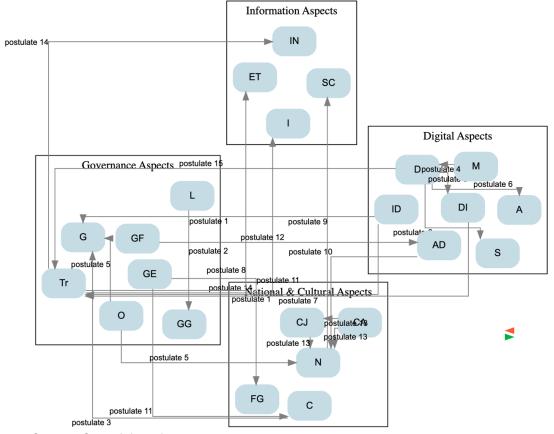
Where:	$D\toTr$
Digital Innovations Transparency Governance Effective Leadership Good Governance Collaboration Public Management Transformation Digitalization Shared Objectives Backgrounds Security Challenges Equitable Access	(ID) (Tr) (G) (L) (GG) (C) (M) (D) (O) (N) (S) (A)
Misinformation (DI) Inclusive and Equitable Technological Strategies Shared Solutions Common Challenges Constant Digital Adaptation and Evolution Effective Governance Policies Geographic Cultural Strengthened Governance Structures Collective Ethos of Learning Joint Growth Access to Information Integrity	(ET) (SC) (DC) (AD) (GE) (FG) (C) (GF) (CA) (CJ) (I)

We can represent these postulates together in a general notation as follows.

The DGTF outlines the complex relationships between digital transformation, effective governance, and the importance of transparency in the modern era. Here's a deep dive into each component (See next Figure 2):

- 1. Digital Innovations Redefining Transparency and Governance (ID→(Tr∧G)): As digital technologies advance, they significantly alter our concepts of transparency and governance. Whether it's through blockchain technologies ensuring transparent transactions or Aldriven public services, digital innovations are resetting benchmarks for what citizens expect in terms of openness and how institutions should govern.
- 2. The Cornerstone Role of Leadership in Good Governance ( $L \rightarrow GG$ ): Leadership isn't just about making decisions; it's about setting values, ethics, and a vision that can guide institutions towards effective governance. Good governance necessitates leaders who are accountable, transparent, and willing to engage stakeholders.

Figure 2
Navigating the Landscape of Digital Governance:
An Exploration of Foundational Postulates



Source: Own elaboration

- 3. Collaboration as a Pillar for Governance  $(C \rightarrow G)$ : In today's interconnected world, isolated governance efforts fall short. Collaborative initiatives, whether crossdepartmental, intergovernmental, or even international, amplify governance's effectiveness, ensuring policies and initiatives are holistic.
- 4. Digital Transformation in Public Management ( $M \rightarrow D$ ): As public entities evolve in their services and functions, integrating digital tools and platforms becomes indispensable. From egovernance platforms to Aldriven public service applications, the future of public management is digital.
- 5. Universal Nature of Governance Objectives  $(O \rightarrow (G \land N))$ : Governance isn't confined to cultural or national nuances. Fundamental governance objectives, such as equity, justice, and accountability, are shared universally, irrespective of backgrounds or geopolitical differences.
- 6. Challenges Ushered by the Digital Era  $(D \rightarrow (S \land A \land DI))$ : The digital landscape, while promising, comes with its set of challenges. Security concerns in an interconnected world, ensuring equitable access to digital resources, and combatting the wave of misinformation are critical issues that stakeholders must address.
- 7. Misinformation as a Barrier to Transparency (DI→¬Tr): In an age where information is abundant, so is misinformation. The proliferation of fake news and disinformation campaigns can significantly erode public trust and hinder genuine transparency efforts.

- 8. Equitable Technological Strategies for Genuine Transparency (Tr→ET): True transparency isn't just about making information available. It's about ensuring that all stakeholders, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have equal access to this information. This requires inclusive digital platforms and tools.
- 9. Collective Learning Leading to Shared Solutions (N→SC): As nations face common challenges, collective learning and collaborative problemsolving become essential. By sharing knowledge and best practices, countries can devise solutions that are more robust and holistic.
- 10. National Agility in the Face of Digital Evolution (AD $\rightarrow$ N): The pace of digital evolution is relentless. For nations to stay relevant and effective, they must demonstrate agility, continuously adapting to technological advancements and integrating them into their governance frameworks.
- 11. Universality of Effective Governance Policies ( $GE \rightarrow (FG \land C)$ ): Effective governance transcends local nuances. While policies might be implemented differently based on cultural or geographical factors, the core principles of effective governance remain consistent globally.
- 12. Combatting Digital Threats Through Robust Governance (GF→¬AD): The digital realm, with its myriad opportunities, also brings threats. Robust governance structures serve as the frontline defense against these digital threats, ensuring stability, security, and trust.
- 13. Shared Ethos Fostering Collective Growth  $(CA \land N) \rightarrow (CJ \land N)$ : A shared commitment to learning and knowledgesharing among nations is not just about individual growth. It's about collective progress, ensuring that as one nation rises, others do too.
- 14. True Transparency Beyond Just Access ( $Tr \rightarrow (I \land IN)$ ): Transparency is a multifaceted concept. Beyond just providing access to information, it's about ensuring that this information is accurate, relevant, and devoid of manipulation.
- 15. Addressing Digital Challenges for Sustained Transparency (D→Tr): In the digital age, sustaining transparency requires proactive measures. Addressing challenges, whether they're technological or societal, becomes vital to ensure that the tenets of transparency remain uncompromised.

Let:

Digital Governance & Transparency Framework = DGTF

Then:

$$\begin{array}{l} DGTF = ID \rightarrow (Tr \land G) \land L \rightarrow GG \land C \rightarrow G \land M \rightarrow D \land O \rightarrow (G \land N) \land D \rightarrow (S \land A \land DI) \land DI \rightarrow \neg Tr \land Tr \rightarrow ET \land N \rightarrow SC \land AD \rightarrow N \land GE \rightarrow (FG \land C) \land GF \rightarrow \neg AD \land (CA \land N) \rightarrow (CJ \land N) \land Tr \rightarrow (I \land IN) \land D \rightarrow \rightarrow (I \land IN)$$

The DGTF presents a roadmap, shedding light on the intricate interplay of digitalization, governance, and transparency in today's dynamic landscape. It provides stakeholders with a structured framework, guiding them on how to navigate the complexities of the digital era while upholding the principles of effective governance and genuine transparency.

#### Governance and Technology in the Digital Age:

#### Key Assumptions

The digital era, marked by rapid technological advancements, has fundamentally reshaped governance models. Leadership quality and vision are crucial for transparent governance in our interconnected world. This leadership thrives on collaboration, reinforcing governance mechanisms. Public sector management has become intertwined with technology, prompting diverse nations to converge on common governance goals.

The information surge of the digital age presents challenges, including data protection and equitable access. Moreover, the spread of misleading information threatens transparent governance. Achieving true transparency requires strategies ensuring equal technological opportunities for everyone and isn't limited to mere information availability, but also its accuracy.

Nations, while embracing the constant change of the digital age, must be adaptable, transcending regional and cultural boundaries. Effective governance can mitigate the risks posed by the digital environment. A collective learning ethos among nations encourages joint growth. Lastly, to harness the full potential of the digital age, addressing its inherent challenges is imperative. In essence, the relationship between technology and governance has evolved, creating a dynamic landscape of opportunities and challenges that nations must navigate.

These assumptions offer insights into navigating governance in our digital world.

Assumption 1: Technological advancements (TA) influence modern governance models (GM):

$$TA \rightarrow GM$$

Assumption 2: The success of transparent governance (TG) depends primarily on robust and visionary leadership (L):

$$TG \rightarrow L$$

Assumption 3: Interconnection (IC) and joint efforts (JE) solidify and strengthen governance mechanisms (GM):

$$(IC \land JE) \rightarrow GM$$

Assumption 4: The evolution of public sector management (PSM) is intrinsically linked to technological advancements (TA):

$$\mathsf{PSM} \to \mathsf{TA}$$

Assumption 5: Diverse nations (N) can converge on common goals (CG) and governance visions (G):

$$N \rightarrow (CG \land G)$$

Assumption 6: The proliferation of information in the digital age (DA) brings challenges related to data protection (DP) and equitable access (EA):

$$DA \rightarrow (DP \land EA)$$

Assumption 7: The spread of false or misleading information (FMI) directly undermines the essence of transparent governance (TG):

Assumption 8: Achieving genuine transparency (TG) requires strategies (S) that ensure equal technological opportunities for all (EO):

$$TG \rightarrow S$$

Assumption 9: Collaborative efforts (CE) and shared experiences (SE) among countries can lead to innovative solutions (IS) for mutual challenges (MC):

$$(CE \land SE) \rightarrow IS$$

Assumption 10: In the digital age (DA), constant change (CC) is the norm, forcing nations to be adaptable and futureoriented:

$$\mathsf{DA} \to \mathsf{CC}$$

Assumption 11: Effective governance (EG) transcends regional boundaries (RB) and cultural distinctions (CD):

$$EG \rightarrow (RB \land CD)$$

Assumption 12: Solid governance mechanisms (GM) are instrumental in mitigating risks (MR) posed by the digital environment (DE):

$$GM \rightarrow \neg MR$$

Assumption 13: A collective ethos of learning (CL) and sharing fosters joint growth (JG) and development among nations (N): (

$$CL \wedge N) \rightarrow (JG \wedge N)$$

Assumption 14: The essence of transparency (TG) is not limited only to the availability of information (AI) but also to its accuracy and reliability (AR):

$$TG \rightarrow (AI \land AR)$$

Assumption 15: To truly harness the benefits of the digital age (DA), it is imperative to proactively address its associated challenges (AC):

$$DA \rightarrow AC$$

We can represent these assumption together in a general notation as follows. See next Figure 3.

1. Technological Advancements (TA) influence Modern Governance Models (GM):This statement suggests that advancements in technology have an impact on the way modern governance systems are structured and function. It implies that changes in technology can shape the way governments operate and make decisions.

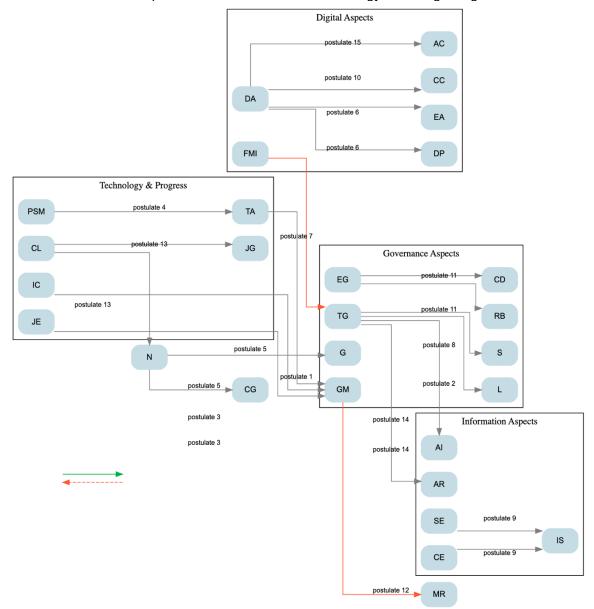


Figure 3
Assumptions on Governance and Technology in the Digital Age

Source: Own elaboration

- 2. The success of Transparent Governance (TG) primarily depends on Robust and Visionary Leadership (L):In this context, we posit that transparent governance thrives when guided by resilient and visionary leadership. Effective governance transparency hinges on leadership dedicated to fostering openness and accountability within government operations.
- 3. Interconnection (IC) and Joint Efforts (JE) strengthen Governance Mechanisms (GM):This statement suggests that when various entities or organizations are interconnected and collaborate through joint efforts, it enhances the overall effectiveness of governance mechanisms. Cooperation and coordination among different stakeholders can improve governance.

- 4. The evolution of Public Sector Management (PSM) is intrinsically linked to Technological Advancements (TA): It is stated that the development and transformation of public sector management are closely connected to advances in technology. New technologies can reshape how public sector organizations operate and deliver services.
- 5. Diverse Nations (N) can converge on Common Goals (CG) and Governance Visions (G): This statement posits that nations with diverse backgrounds and interests can come together and share common goals and visions for governance. It suggests that shared objectives can transcend national differences.
- 6. The proliferation of information in the Digital Age (DA) brings challenges related to Data Protection (DP) and Equitable Access (EA): In the digital age, the rapid spread of information creates challenges related to safeguarding data and ensuring fair and equal access to it. It implies that managing data and ensuring equitable access are critical issues in the digital era.
- 7. The spread of false or misleading information (FMI) directly undermines the essence of Transparent Governance (TG): This statement asserts that the dissemination of false or deceptive information can directly weaken the core principles of transparent governance. Trust and credibility in government actions can be eroded by misinformation.
- 8. Achieving Genuine Transparency (TG) requires strategies (S) that ensure equal technological opportunities for all (EO): To achieve true transparency in governance, it is suggested that strategies must be implemented to provide equal access to technological opportunities for all citizens. This emphasizes the importance of inclusivity in transparency efforts.
- 9. Collaborative efforts (CE) and shared experiences (SE) among countries can lead to innovative solutions (IS) for mutual challenges (MC): Collaboration and the exchange of experiences among nations can result in innovative solutions to address common challenges. It highlights the value of international cooperation in problemsolving.
- 10. In the Digital Age (DA), constant change (CC) is the norm, forcing nations to be adaptable and future oriented: The digital age is characterized by continuous change and advancement. Nations must adapt and look to the future to remain relevant and effective in this dynamic environment.
- 11. Effective Governance (EG) transcends Regional Boundaries (RB) and Cultural Distinctions (CD): Effective governance is not confined by geographical or cultural boundaries. It implies that principles of good governance can be universally applicable regardless of regional or cultural differences.
- 12. Solid Governance Mechanisms (GM) are instrumental in mitigating risks (MR) posed by the digital environment (DE): Strong and wellestablished governance mechanisms are crucial for managing and reducing the risks associated with the digital environment. It emphasizes the need for robust governance in the face of digital challenges.
- 13. A collective ethos of learning (CL) and sharing fosters joint growth (JG) and development among nations (N): The idea here is that when nations collectively embrace a culture of learning and sharing, it encourages mutual growth and development. It promotes the idea that knowledge sharing leads to progress.
- 14. The essence of Transparency (TG) is not limited to information availability (AI) alone but also to its accuracy and reliability (AR): Transparency goes beyond simply making information available; it also includes ensuring that the information is accurate and dependable. Trust is built on the reliability of information.
- 15. To truly harness the benefits of the Digital Age (DA), it is imperative to proactively address its associated challenges (AC):

These assumptions underscore the evolving relationship between technology and governance in today's digital age. The tapestry of change, challenges, and opportunities they paint serves as a compass for the future trajectories of nations globally.

Let:

Assumptions on Governance and Technology in the Digital Age = (AGTDA)

Then:

AGTDA = GM  $\leftrightarrow$  (TA v TG v IC v JE v PSM v N v DA v FMI v S v CE v SE v CC v EG v GM v CL v AI v AR v AC)

Where:

GM: Modern Governance Model TA: Technological Advancements TG: Transparency in Governance

IC: Interconnection JE: Joint Efforts

PSM: Public Sector Management

N: Diverse Nations DA: Digital Age

FMI: False or Misleading Information

S: Strategies

CE: Collaborative Efforts SE: Shared Experiences CC: Constant Change EG: Effective Governance

CL: Collective Ethos of Learning AI: Availability of Information

AR: Accuracy and Reliability of Information

AC: Associated Challenges

This general model reflects the complexity of interactions between these assumptions in the context of modern governance in the digital age.

**Principles of Digital Governance:** Theorems on Transparency, Collaboration, and Technological Adaptability

Theorem 1: Nations focused on leadership and collaboration will solidify their path towards transparent governance:

$$(L \land C) \rightarrow TG$$

Theorem 2: Nations that share aspirations can effectively collaborate despite cultural and geographical differences:

$$(N \land O) \rightarrow C$$

Theorem 3: Efficient and transformative public management in the digital age ensures greater technological adaptability:

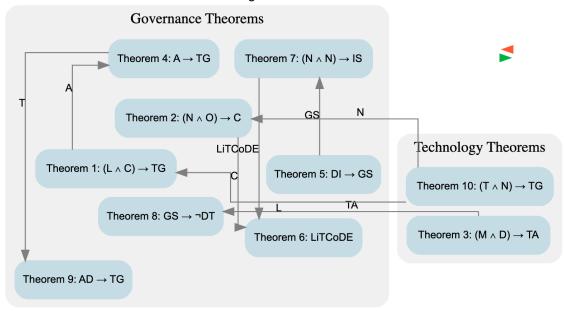
$$(M \land D) \rightarrow TA$$

Theorem 4: Prioritizing equitable access to technology democratizes transparency:

$$A \rightarrow TG$$

We can represent these theorems together in a general notation as follows. See Figure 4.

Figure 4
Theoretical Framework: Ten Key Theorems Shaping Transparent Governance and Digital Collaboration



Source: Own elaboration

Theorem 5: Proactively addressing disinformation in the digital age strengthens governance structures:

$$\mathsf{DI} \to \mathsf{GS}$$

Theorem 6: Adopting the "LiTCoDE" framework provides an optimized roadmap for navigating technology, governance, and transparency:

#### **LiTCoDE**

Theorem 7: International collaboration based on mutual learning generates more robust solutions:

$$(N \wedge N) \rightarrow IS$$

Theorem 8: Nations with strengthened governance structures are less vulnerable to digital threats:

$$\mathsf{GS} \to \neg \mathsf{DT}$$

Theorem 9: Constant digital adaptability is essential to maintaining transparency in times of change:

$$AD \rightarrow TG$$

Theorem 10: Transparency in the digital age depends on both technology and collaborative commitment among nations:

$$(T \land N) \rightarrow TG$$

According to Figure 4, each of the expressed theorems is a logical statement that establishes a relationship between different concepts related to governance, technology, collaboration, and transparency in the context of countries or nations. Here is the explanation of each one:

- 1. Theorem 1: This theorem states that when a nation focuses on leadership (L) and collaboration (C), it will solidify its path towards transparent governance (TG). In other words, leadership and collaboration are conditions that lead to transparent governance.
- 2. Theorem 2: This theorem asserts that when nations (N) share aspirations (O), they can effectively collaborate (C) despite cultural and geographical differences. Here, collaboration is related to the sharing of aspirations among nations.
- 3. Theorem 3: It indicates that efficient and transformative public management (M and D) in the digital age results in greater technological adaptability (TA). This suggests that efficient public management and digital transformation are conditions for achieving greater technological adaptability.
- 4. Theorem 4: This theorem states that prioritizing equitable access to technology (A) democratizes transparency (TG). In other words, ensuring that everyone has access to technology contributes to greater transparency.
- 5. Theorem 5: It is stated that proactively addressing disinformation (DI) in the digital age strengthens governance structures (GS). In this case, addressing disinformation is considered beneficial for governance.
- 6. Theorem 6: This theorem mentions the "LiTCoDE" as a framework that provides an optimized roadmap for navigating technology (Li), governance (G), and transparency (TG). It does not establish a direct logical relationship but describes a framework or approach.
- 7. Theorem 7: It asserts that international collaboration based on mutual learning among nations (N and N) generates more robust solutions (IS). Here, collaboration is related to mutual learning and the generation of solid solutions.
- 8. Theorem 8: It indicates that nations with strengthened governance structures (GS) are less vulnerable to digital threats (¬DT). This suggests that strong governance protects against digital threats.
- 9. Theorem 9: It states that constant digital adaptability (AD) is essential for maintaining transparency (TG) in times of change. Here, digital adaptability is considered necessary to preserve transparency.
- 10. Theorem 10: This theorem argues that transparency in the digital age depends on both technology (T) and collaborative commitment among nations (N). Both factors, technology and collaboration, are necessary to achieve transparency in the digital age.

Consolidate these theorems into a single notation:

L: Nations focused on leadership
C: Nations focused on collaboration

TG: Transparent governance

N: Nations

O: Share aspirations

M: Efficient and transformative public management

D: Digital age

TA: Technological adaptability

A: Prioritizing equitable access to technology
DI: Proactively addressing disinformation
GS: Strengthened governance structures
LiTCoDE: Adopting the "LiTCoDE" framework

IS: International solutions based on mutual learning

DT: Digital threats

AD: Constant digital adaptability

T: Technology

Using the given information, the notations for the theorems can be represented as:

Theorem 1	(L∧C)→TG
Theorem 2	(N∧O)→C
Theorem 3	(M∧D)→TA
Theorem 4	A→TG
Theorem 5	DI→GS
Theorem 6	LiTCoDE
Theorem 7	N→IS
Theorem 8	GS→¬DT
Theorem 9	$AD \rightarrow TG$
(Theorem 10	T∧N)→TG

#### Let:

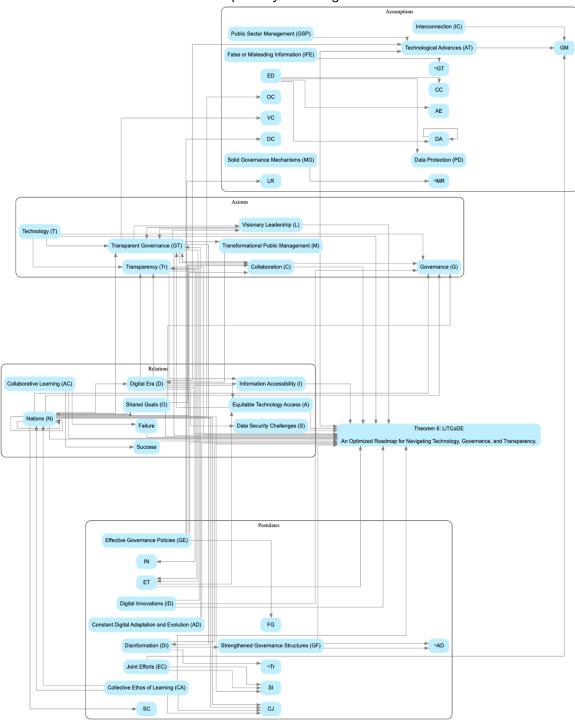
Theorems Shaping Transparent Governance and Digital Collaboration = (TSTGDC)

Then:

$$\mathsf{TSTGDC} = (\mathsf{L} \land \mathsf{C}) \rightarrow \mathsf{TG} \land (\mathsf{N} \land \mathsf{O}) \rightarrow \mathsf{C} \land (\mathsf{M} \land \mathsf{D}) \rightarrow \mathsf{TA} \land \mathsf{A} \rightarrow \mathsf{TG} \land \mathsf{DI} \rightarrow \mathsf{GS} \land \mathsf{LiTCoDE} \land \mathsf{N} \rightarrow \mathsf{IS} \land \mathsf{GS} \rightarrow \neg \mathsf{DT} \land \mathsf{AD} \rightarrow \mathsf{TG} \land (\mathsf{T} \land \mathsf{N}) \rightarrow \mathsf{TG}$$

Below, we present next Figure 5, which encapsulates the integration of Foundations, Postulates, Assumptions, and Theorems within the context of Technology, Governance, and Transparency in the Digital Era. This illustrative framework provides a visual representation of the interconnected principles and hypotheses that form the bedrock of our exploration into the dynamic relationship between technology, governance, and transparency in the modern digital landscape.

Figure 5
Foundations, Postulates, Assumptions, and Theorems: Technology, Governance, and Transparency in the Digital Era



Source: Own elaboration

This theoretical framework, anchored in the axioms and elaborated upon by the postulates and theorems, provides a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted relationship between technology, governance, and transparency in the contemporary era.

Digital governance refers to the implementation of modern technologies, especially the Internet, by the State to increase the efficiency of public management, improve the services offered to citizens, and provide a more transparent framework in public administration. Mexico and Vietnam have been working on adopting digital governance, though they face different challenges and opportunities within their respective contexts.

Technology is seen as a key tool and lens that redefines how governance and transparency are addressed. This approach highlights the importance of digitalization and technological innovations in transforming governance structures and mechanisms. <sup>26</sup>

Transformational Leadership: The relevance of visionary leadership in promoting and achieving transparent governance is emphasized. Leadership is not only a directive figure but also acts as a catalyst for collaboration and transformational public management.

Interconnectivity and Global Collaboration: Despite varied cultural and geographical roots, nations can share common goals and visions around governance and transparency. The idea that mutual learning and international collaboration can lead to more robust and effective solutions is emphasized.

Duality of the Digital Age: While access to information has increased, so have challenges such as misinformation, data security, and equitable access to technology. This reflects a critical perspective on the advantages and disadvantages of the digital age.

Equity in Technological Access: True transparency is not just about having access to information, but it also needs to be equitable. This approach advocates for strategies that ensure equal technological opportunities for all.

Proactive Governance: Proactively confronting the challenges of the digital age, especially misinformation, is essential to maintaining and strengthening governance structures.

In summary, this theoretical framework integrates a combination of approaches that highlight the importance of technology, leadership, global collaboration, equity, and proactivity in shaping governance and transparency in the contemporary era.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> McLuhan Marshall (1994) Understanding Media The extensions of man. The MIT Press.

# **Contextualizing Contemporary Digital Governance Landscape**

In Mexico, the government has invested in technology and has implemented various digital government initiatives. According to rankings from the OECD<sup>27</sup>, McKinsey,<sup>28</sup> and the GovTech index of Latin America,<sup>29</sup> Mexico is among the leading countries in the region in governmental digital maturity. Some of the government agencies<sup>30</sup> that have invested the most in technology include the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), the oil company Pemex, and the Ministry of Public Education.

On the other hand, Vietnam has been working on implementing digital technologies in its government. The official application of the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam, MPI Vietnam, is an example of how the country is using technology to facilitate access to the Ministry's information and allow citizens to submit comments and recommendations related to state management. In Vietnam, the government is also working on implementing digital technologies. The country ranked 86th out of 193 countries in digital government landscape in 2022.<sup>31</sup> Vietnam's Ministry of Information and Communications has set a goal for the country to be among the top 50 countries in digital government by 2025.

A primary element in Vietnam's e-government evolution is the digitization of public services. This transformation is evident in platforms such as the country's main public services portal, which currently provides 31% of its services at the 4th level of digitization. With ambitions to establish itself as a developed industrialized nation by 2045, Vietnam identifies digital governance as a cornerstone in achieving this aspiration.

For a technical document focusing on digital governance in both Mexico and Vietnam, a thorough examination of diverse sources is crucial. This includes delving into governmental documents, scholarly research, and media reports. A pivotal part of the analysis would be drawing parallels and distinctions in how both nations have embraced digital governance. Supporting statistics and pertinent data would further underscore the existing landscape of digital governance in Mexico and Vietnam

#### Significance of Transparency for Accountable Governance

Governance requires transparency to allow citizens to learn about government operations, promoting accountability and reducing corruption. Increasing transparency in the digital age builds trust between governments and citizens and holds public institutions accountable.<sup>32</sup> See next Figure 6.

<sup>28</sup> Max Cesar, Chaia Alberto, de Oliveira Vaz Andre, GarciaMuñoz Gonzalo, Haugwitz Philipp (2018). How Mexico can become Latin America's digitalgovernment powerhouse. McKinsey & Company. November 18, 2018. https://www.mckinsey.com/mx/ourinsights/howmexicocanbecomelatinamericasdigitalgovernmentpowerhouse#/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> OECD (2020), "The OECD Digital Government Policy Framework: Six dimensions of a Digital Government", OECD Public Governance Policy Papers, No. 02, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/f64fed2aen

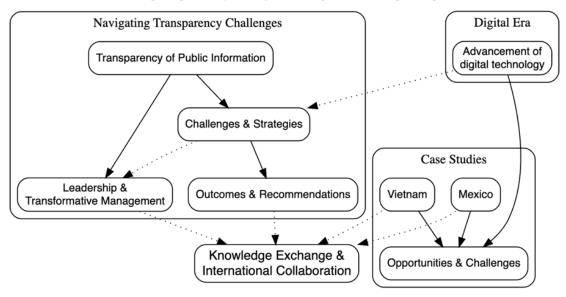
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Zapata, E., Stirling, R., Pasquarelli, W., & Shearer, E. (2020). The GovTech Index 2020 Unlocking the Potential of GovTech Ecosystems in Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Caracas: CAF, Oxford Insights. https://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/1580

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce. International Trade Administration (2022). Mexico – Country Commercial Guide. Internet and Digital Economy. https://www.trade.gov/countrycommercialguides/mexicointernetanddigitaleconomy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Pham Thi Thuy Duong & Truong Thuy Quynh (2023). Unveiling the engines behind egovernment in Vietnam. East Asia ForumEconomics, Politics and Public Policy in East Asia and the Pacific. July – September 2023. https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/04/15/unveilingtheenginesbehindegovernmentinvietnam/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Kumar, M.S., Gupta, D.A., & Gaurav, D.R. (2023). Exploring Corporate Governance Practices in the Indian Context: Opportunities and Challenges.

Figure 6
Navigating Transparency Challenges in the Digital Age



Source: Own elaboration

As shown in Figure 6, digital technology has opened new avenues for transparency and accountability worldwide. However, it has also introduced challenges like data protection and information authenticity. This presentation delves into how leaders and changes in public management can effectively navigate transparency crises concerning public information, drawing insights from the experiences of Mexico and Vietnam.

The cases of Mexico<sup>33</sup> and Vietnam<sup>34</sup> emphasize the significance of leadership and transformative information. By deconstructing strategies and outcomes, our objective is to distill practical insights and recommendations for other nations facing similar challenges. Ultimately, we aim to facilitate knowledge exchange and shared experiences among congress participants, fostering international collaboration to strengthen transparency in the everevolving landscape of public information in the digital age.

#### Role of Leadership and Transformative Public Management

In the contemporary digital landscape, effective leadership and transformative public management play a pivotal role in navigating transparency crises and fortifying accountable and trustworthy governance through the transparent dissemination of public information. The analysis of policies, strategies, challenges, and outcomes in Mexico and Vietnam reveals that adept management of transparency crises relies on leadershipdriven shifts in public management, which can be adapted and applied in diverse international settings. This hypothesis asserts that proactive and innovative leadership combined with transformative public management strategies can successfully address transparency challenges arising from the adoption of digital technology, ultimately enhancing accountability and governance reforms.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Pérez, J.E. (2018). La información pública de oficio de los institutos electorales en México y la reforma político electoral y de transparencia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> An, N.P., Viet, L., & Huy, P.Q. (2021). Applying a New Public Management Model to Public Sector Management Accounting in Vietnam. Proceedings of the International Conference on Emerging Challenges: Business Transformation and Circular Economy (ICECH 2021). https://www.atlantispress.com/proceedings/icech21/125965440

Furthermore, the hypothesis acknowledges the broader aim of fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange. It posits that sharing experiences and insights among diverse participants can lead to the cultivation of a collaborative environment aimed at enhancing transparency within the everevolving landscape of public information in the digital era.

Leadership plays a vital role in driving transparency and accountability in public management. Effective leaders can influence organizational culture, implement transformative strategies, and navigate transparency crises. Transformative public management focuses on fostering innovation, collaboration, and adaptability in the face of complex challenges, ultimately enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

#### LiTCoDE Framework:

# Leadership, Transformative Management, Challenges, Digital Exchange & Evolution

Public management and leadership have undergone significant evolution, shaped by various pivotal themes that are essential for the proper functioning of both the public and private sectors. This overview highlights five such integral sections:

a) Leadership and Transparency, b) Transformative Public Management, c) Addressing Transparency Challenges, d) Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange and e) Digital Technology and Governance Reforms.

#### Public Management and Leadership: A Brief Overview

- 1. Leadership and Transparency. The essence of a successful enterprise, whether in business or the public sector, hinges on leadership that is transparent. An open and honest leader cultivates an environment of trust, paving the way for seamless communication. This kind of leadership approach not only establishes credibility but also keeps team members wellinformed about the organization's objectives, direction, and challenges. The absence of this transparency can spiral into a myriad of issues, including diminished morale, hindered productivity, and a high employee turnover rate.
- 2. Transformative Public Management. The evolving dynamics of our world today demand an evolved approach to public management. The transformative public management approach aims to surpass the constraints set by the New Public Management perspective. Key to this is the modernization of public administration. Managers, now more than ever, are tasked with acclimating to a rapidly changing environment and fostering innovation within their organizations.
- 3. Addressing Transparency Challenges. As vital as transparency is, it's not without its challenges. There exists a potential mismatch between the target audience and the beneficiary, the manipulation of data, and the everlooming concern of balancing transparency with privacy. Addressing these challenges requires understanding the underlying motivations behind different transparency types and striking the right balance between open disclosure and information protection.
- 4. Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange. Progress in teaching, research, and local development often hinges on collaboration between institutions and the exchange of knowledge. These processes are instrumental in fostering innovation. However, they aren't without their hurdles. Key challenges include a lack of coordination between entities and individuals, and the need to overcome cultural and organizational barriers for smooth collaboration.

5. Digital Technology and Governance Reforms. In this digital age, technology stands at the forefront of driving governance reforms. It offers a gateway to enhanced transparency and efficiency within public administration. Digital tools can elevate communication and collaboration standards and make public services and information more accessible and of higher quality. However, it's essential to navigate the associated challenges of privacy concerns, security issues, and the digital divide.

As public management and leadership landscapes continue to shift, understanding these five areas becomes paramount. Embracing transparency, adopting transformative approaches, collaborating effectively, and harnessing the power of digital technology can usher in an era of more efficient and accountable public governance.

In the everevolving landscape of public management, there's a pressing need for an encompassing framework that addresses key pillars in transformative governance. Meet the LiTCoDE Framework: a holistic model that synergizes Leadership, Transformative Management, Challenges, Digital Exchange, and Evolution.

Leadership and Transparency (Li). In an age where information flows freely and rapidly, leadership isn't just about being at the helm of an organization. True leadership encapsulates the courage to be transparent, providing stakeholders with the clarity they need. Within the LiTCoDE Framework, leadership doesn't only serve as a mere component but as the backbone that upholds the other pillars. Authentic leadership recognizes the value of transparency, not just as a virtue but as an essential tool in effective governance.

Transformative Public Management (T). Gone are the days when static and rigid management practices dominated public offices. For a responsive and citizencentric approach, there's a need for transformative public management. This refers to reinventing traditional managerial practices to become more agile, adaptive, and, most importantly, effective in addressing current societal needs.

Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange (Co). Collaboration breaks down silos and encourages multidisciplinary thinking. The LiTCoDE Framework emphasizes the vitality of fostering environments where knowledge isn't just retained but exchanged. The 'Co' component underscores the belief that collaborative efforts combined with knowledge exchange can amplify problemsolving capabilities and ignite innovative solutions.

Addressing Transparency Challenges (D). The transparency is a commendable goal, it comes with its set of challenges. How do public entities ensure data privacy while being transparent? How do they maintain trust when information isn't flattering? Addressing these challenges, represented by the 'D' in LiTCoDE, emphasizes the practicalities and intricacies of maintaining transparency.

Digital Technology and Governance Evolution (E). Digital transformation isn't a choice; it's an imperative. The 'E' in the framework brings to light the importance of incorporating digital tools in governance, not just for efficiency but to evolve with the needs of a digitalnative population. It's about utilizing technology to further enhance the pillars of leadership, management, collaboration, and addressing challenges.

Where, LiTCoDE, means:

Li stands for Leadership and Transparency

T for Transformative Public Management

Co for Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

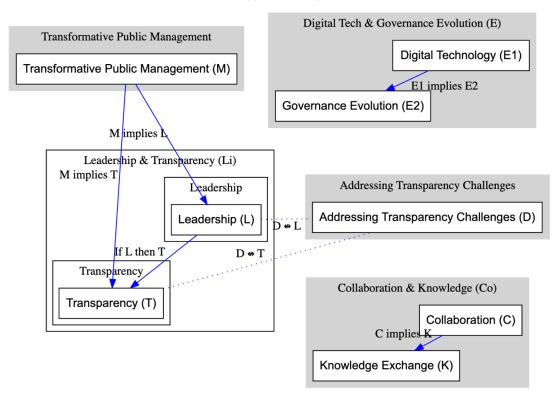
D for Addressing Transparency

E for Digital Technology and Governance Evolution

Symbolic logic model for the "LiTCoDE Framework" based on the description provided in the next Figure 7.

Figure 7
LiTCoDE Framework: A Visual Description for Improving Digital
Transparency in Government

#### LiTCoDE Framework



Source: Own elaboration

#### **Symbol definition**

L: Leadership T: Transparency

M: Transformative Public Management

C: Collaboration

K: Knowledge Exchange

D: Addressing (Dealing with) Transparency Challenges

E1: Digital Technology

E2: Governance Evolution

#### Representation of the relationships:

- a. If there's Leadership, then there's Transparency: L→T
- b. Transformative Public Management implies Leadership and Transparency:  $M \rightarrow (L \land T)$
- c. Collaboration implies Knowledge Exchange: C→K
- d. Dealing with Transparency Challenges doesn't necessarily imply Leadership or Transparency but may relate to them: D↔(LvT)
- e. Digital Technology implies Governance Evolution: E1→E2

## Representation of the LiTCoDE Framework through the Unified Model

Taking into account that the earlier model presented a scenario with a straightforward binary result (it either satisfies the condition or doesn't), the current model introduces elements of probability, allowing for various potential outcomes. Consequently, this allows for the analysis of different states and conditions in the study variables.

Let:

Leadership, Transformative Management, Challenges, Digital Exchange, and Evolution = LiTCoDE Framework

Then:

LiTCoDE Framework = 
$$(L \rightarrow T) \land (M \rightarrow (L \land T)) \land (C \rightarrow K) \land (E1 \rightarrow E2)$$

The LiTCoDE Framework is depicted using the Unified Model incorporating probability spaces into mathematical logic notation can be complicated because the probability spaces for each variable must be defined. In this section, To combine previously defined relationships with notations indicating probability spaces for each variable:

1. If there is Leadership (L), there exists a probability space  $(\Omega_1)$  showing the quality of leadership, with the events representing different levels of leadership.

```
L \rightarrow (T|\Omega 1), \Omega 1 = \{\text{highly effective leadership,moderate leadership,lack of leadership}\}
```

2. Transformative Public Management (M) involves leadership and transparency, and it opens up a probability space ( $\Omega_2$ ) that indicates the level of transformation in public management.

```
M \rightarrow ((L \land T) \mid \Omega 2), \Omega 2 = \{\text{high transformation,moderate transformation,low transformation}\}
```

3. Collaboration (C) implies Knowledge Exchange (K), resulting in a probability space  $(\Omega_3)$  signifying varying levels of collaboration.

```
C \rightarrow (K \mid \Omega 3), \Omega 3 = \{high collaboration, moderate collaboration, low collaboration\}
```

4. Addressing Transparency Issues (D) refers to Leadership (L) and Transparency (T), but does not necessarily imply these, resulting in a probability space ( $\Omega_4$ ) with varying levels of success in handling these difficulties.

```
D \leftrightarrow ((L \lor T) \mid \Omega 4), \ \Omega 4 = \{challenges \ successfully \ addressed, challenges \ partially \ addressed, challenges \ not \ addressed\}
```

5. Digital Technology (E1) implies Governance Evolution (E2), resulting in a probability space  $(\Omega_5)$  indicating the level of evolution.

```
E1 \rightarrow (E2 | \Omega5), \Omega5 = {high evolution,moderate evolution,low evolution}
```

These mathematical notations include probability spaces ( $\Omega_1$ ,  $\Omega_2$ , ...,  $\Omega_5$ ) that reflect the numerous states or levels that each notion can acquire depending on a variety of conditions. Probability spaces allow you to quantify and categorize the likely outcomes of any notion in real life.

Let:

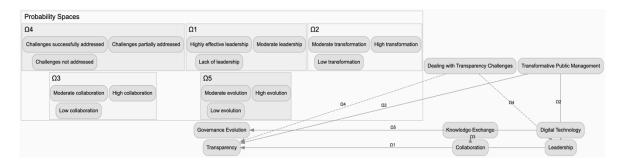
LiTCoDE Framework Unified Model incorporating probability spaces = M

Where:

$$M = \{P(L \rightarrow T) = \Omega 1, P(M \rightarrow (L \land T)) = \Omega 2, P(C \rightarrow K) = \Omega 3, P(D \leftrightarrow (L \lor T)) = \Omega 4, P(E1 \rightarrow E2) = \Omega 5\}$$

In essence, the LiTCoDE Framework is a roadmap that guides public entities through the intricacies of modern governance. By combining these pivotal aspects, the framework aims to nurture public systems that are not just effective but also adaptive, transparent, and inclusive. See Figure 8.

Figure 8
A Visual Description LiTCoDE Framework Unified Model incorporating probability spaces



Source: Own elaboration

#### Considering:

The LiTCoDE Framework Unified Model incorporating probability spaces = M

Where:

$$M = \{P(L \rightarrow T) = \Omega 1, P(M \rightarrow (L \land T)) = \Omega 2, P(C \rightarrow K) = \Omega 3, P(D \leftrightarrow (L \lor T)) = \Omega 4, P(E1 \rightarrow E2) = \Omega 5\}$$

The model M proposes that:

- The probability of Transparency given Leadership is in the space Ω1
- The probability that Transformative Public Management implies both Leadership and Transparency is in the space  $\Omega$  2
- The probability that Collaboration leads to Knowledge Sharing is in the space  $\Omega$  3
- The probability of Addressing Transparency Challenges being related (without necessarily implying) to Leadership or Transparency is in the space  $\Omega$  4
- The probability that Digital Technology leads to a Governance Evolution is in the space  $\Omega$  5

This provides an integrated representation of the system linking key concepts of modern public management and their probabilistic interrelations.

#### **Notation**

 $P(A \rightarrow B)$  represents the probability of event B given event A. This is a conditional probability.

 $P(A \leftrightarrow B)$  represents the probability of event A being related to event B without implying a direction. This is a mutual or bidirectional relation.

P(AAB) represents the joint probability of both events. A and B occurring.

P(AvB) represents the probability of either event A or event B occurring.

#### The Model M

$$M = \begin{cases} P(L \rightarrow T) = \Omega 1 \\ P(M \rightarrow (L \land T)) = \Omega 2 \\ P(C \rightarrow K) = \Omega 3 \\ P(D \rightarrow (L \lor T)) = \Omega 4 \\ P(E1 \rightarrow 2) = \Omega 5 \end{cases}$$

#### **Explanation**

 $P(L \rightarrow T) = \Omega 1$  This equation represents that the probability of Transparency (T) given Leadership (L) exists in the space  $\Omega 1$  In simpler terms, given there's

Leadership, the probability we will observe Transparency lies in  $\Omega$ 1.

 $P(M\rightarrow(L\land T)) = \Omega 2$  Here, the probability that Transformative Public Management (M) implies both Leadership (L) and Transparency (T) exists within the space Ω2. So,

given there's Transformative Public Management, the chance we will observe both Leadership and Transparency simultaneously lies in  $\Omega$ 2.

 $P(C \rightarrow K) = \Omega 3$  The probability that Collaboration (C) leads to Knowledge Sharing (K) is captured in the space Ω3. When Collaboration is present, the probability of

observing Knowledge Sharing is housed within  $\Omega$ 3.

 $P(D \leftrightarrow (L \lor T)) = \Omega 4$  This states that the probability of Addressing Transparency Challenges (D)

being related (in any direction) to either Leadership (L) or Transparency (T) is in the space  $\Omega 4$ . Essentially, Addressing Transparency Challenges has a mutual relationship with either Leadership or Transparency, and the

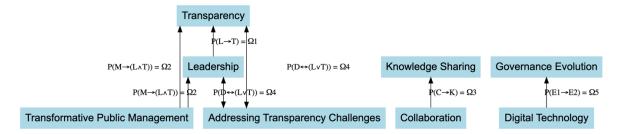
extent of this relationship is found in  $\Omega$ 4.

 $P(E1\rightarrow 2)$  = Ω5 Lastly, the probability that Digital Technology (E1) leads to a Governance Evolution (E2) belongs to the space Ω5. Given the presence of Digital

Technology, the chance of observing a Governance Evolution lies in  $\Omega$ 5.

See next Figure 9 where the relationships in Model M are explained.

Figure 9
The LiTCoDE Framework Unified Model incorporating probability spaces



Source: Own elaboration

According with Figure 9, when discussing the interplay between various organizational elements, five equations can help decode their relationships. In essence, when Leadership is present, there's a chance, represented by  $\Omega1$ , that Transparency will emerge.

Similarly, the coexistence of Leadership and Transparency under Transformative Public Management is quantified by  $\Omega 2$ . Collaboration's potential to foster Knowledge Sharing is captured within  $\Omega 3$ .

The mutual relationship between Addressing Transparency Challenges and either Leadership or Transparency is denoted by  $\Omega 4$ . Lastly, the progression from Digital Technology to a Governance Evolution is measured by  $\Omega 5$ . Each  $\Omega$  value quantifies the likelihood or strength of these respective relationships.

## **Complex Interactions in Governance:**

## A Mathematical Reformulation of Model M

In an everevolving global landscape, understanding the dynamics of governance through a structured, mathematical lens is not only innovative but essential. The reformulation of the original Model M introduces a more intricate web of relationships and influences through the Mnew model, a mathematical representation delineating the sophisticated interplays between varying governance components.

At the heart of this newly conceived model is the recognition of the pervasive influence of "Leadership and Transparency" (Li), with its dynamics now encompassing a broader spectrum defined by a probabilistic space,  $\Omega$ , which symbolizes the organizational culture and sociopolitical ambiance, modulated through a coefficient  $\alpha$ . This innovative perspective extends to the analysis of "Transformative Public Management" (T), further detailed to involve intricate interrelations with "Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange" (Co) and "Digital Technology and Governance Evolution" (E), unified through the coefficient  $\beta$ , which elucidates the feedback dynamics intricately connecting these elements.

The paradigm extends to embody the intricate dynamics of "Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing" (Co), introducing a new formulation, Conew, delineated through a synergetic coefficient  $\gamma$ , establishing connections with leadership and "Transparency Challenges" (D), hence portraying a richer tapestry of organizational dynamics.

Moreover, the formulation brings forth the nuances in addressing "Challenges of Transparency" (D), encapsulating the transformative influences of public management into the equation through the coefficient  $\delta$ . This representation fosters a profound understanding of the feedback loop instituted in addressing transparency challenges.

Furthermore, we delve into the futuristic realm of "Digital Technology and Governance Evolution" (E), portraying its multidimensional interactions with leadership and collaboration, interwoven through a multilevel interaction coefficient  $\epsilon$ , thus paving the way for a more rounded understanding of the governance blueprint in the digital age.

With the introduction of these reformulated constructs, the Mnew function emerges as a beacon of insight, providing a more detailed, structured, and mathematical blueprint of governance, projecting not just individual elements but their intricate, multifaceted interplays. The newly conceived model, therefore, stands as a pivotal tool in unraveling the complex landscape of governance, a step towards understanding and navigating the intricate labyrinth of modernday governance with a lens of analytical rigor and precision. This is not just a reformulation but a revelation, ushering in a new era of understanding in governance dynamics, setting a novel pathway in governance study marked by depth, precision, and analytical rigor.

The proposed reformulation introduces complex interactions into the original model M. Below, a more concise and mathematical representation of this reformulated model, M<sub>new</sub>:

#### 1. Leadership and Transparency (Li)

 $Li_{new} = Li + \alpha \cdot \Omega$ 

This equation suggests that the new "Leadership and Transparency" (Linew) is a function of the previous "Leadership and Transparency" (Li), in addition to a term involving  $\Omega$  (which represents the probabilistic spaces encompassing organizational culture and sociopolitical environment) modulated by a coefficient  $\alpha$ .

Let:

$$Li_{new} = Li + \alpha \cdot \Omega$$

Where:

- Ω represents the probabilistic spaces that encompass organizational culture and the sociopolitical environment.
- α is a coefficient that determines the influence of these spaces on Li

#### 2. Transformative Public Managemen (T)

 $T_{new} = T + \beta \cdot (Co \times E)$ 

Here, the new state of "Transformative Public Management" ( $T_{new}$ ) is determined from the previous state (T) and a term that is the product of "Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange" (Co) and "Digital Technology and Governance Evolution" (E), multiplied by a coefficient  $\beta$ .

Let:

$$T_{new} T + \beta \cdot (Co \times E)$$

Where:

• β is a coefficient that represents the feedback dynamics between collaboration, digital evolution, and transformative management.

#### 3. Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing (Co)

 $Co_{new} = Co + \gamma \cdot (Li + D)$ 

The new state of "Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange" ( $Co_{new}$ ) is derived from the previous state (Co) plus a term that is the sum of "Leadership and Transparency" (Li) and "Transparency Challenges" (D), all of this multiplied by a coefficient  $\gamma$ .

Let:

$$Co_{new} = Co + y \cdot (L i + D)$$

Where:

• γ is a coefficient that represents the synergistic effect between collaboration, leadership, and transparency challenges.

#### 4. Challenges of Transparency (D)

 $D_{new} = D - \delta \cdot T$ 

The new "Transparency Challenges" ( $D_{new}$ ) is obtained from the previous one (D) minus a term that involves "Transformative Public Management" (T) multiplied by a coefficient  $\delta$ .

Let:

$$D_{new} = D - \delta \cdot T$$

Where:

 $\bullet$   $\delta$  is a coefficient representing the feedback loop that arises when addressing the challenges of transparency with transformative public management.

#### 5. Digital Technology and Governance Evolution (E) $E_{new} = E + \epsilon \cdot (L \ i + Co)$

The new state of "Digital Technology and Governance Evolution" (Enew) is influenced by both its previous state (E) and a term involving the sum of "Leadership and Transparency" (Li) and "Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange" (Co), all multiplied by a coefficient  $\epsilon$ .

Let:

$$E_{\text{new}} = E + \epsilon \cdot (L \text{ i+ Co})$$

Where:

 ε es un coeficiente que representa las interacciones multinivel entre la tecnología digital, el liderazgo y la colaboració

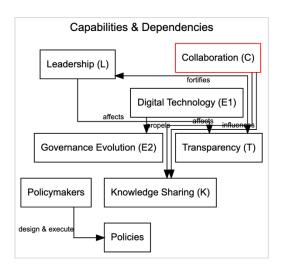
With the reformulated model considering complex interactions, the function  $M_{new}$  is as follows:

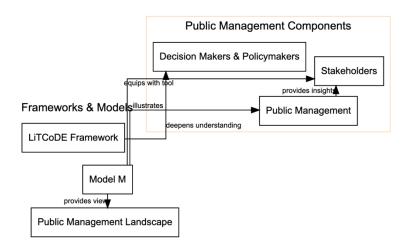
$$M_{new} = f \left( Li_{new}, T_{new}, Co_{new}, D_{new}, E_{new} \right)$$

## Unlocking the Potential of Probabilistic Interconnections in Public Management: Lessons from Model M

Model M offers a mathematical illustration of the complex, probabilistic links present within modern public management. By delineating these connections, stakeholders gain enhanced insight into potential effects one domain may exert upon another, enriching decisionmaking and policy development. See Figure 10.

Figure 10
Model M Interconnections in Public Management





Source: Own elaboration

Incorporating probabilistic models within frameworks such as LiTCoDE deepens the understanding decisionmakers, policymakers, and key players possess regarding the mutual dependencies existing among different system elements.

Let's define a mathematical notation for Model M. Represent the complex, probabilistic links within modern public management as matrices, vectors, and probability distributions.

#### **Notation**

- 1. Domains/Variables:
  - L Leadership
  - T Transparency
  - C Collaboration
  - K Knowledge Sharing
  - E1 Digital Technology
  - E2 Governance Evolution
- 2. Probabilistic link between two domains:

Given two domains A and B, the probabilistic link from A to B is denoted as PA→B.

3. Matrix representation: Let's denote M as a square matrix where each element mij represents the probability link from domain i to domain j.

For instance, mLC (or  $PL \rightarrow C$ ) would be the probabilistic link from Leadership (L) to Collaboration (C).

4. Vector Representation for Domain Importance:

Here, each element represents the importance or emphasis given to each domain. A change in one of these values can simulate the change in emphasis or investment in that domain.

5. Scenario Testing: For any change  $\Delta V$  in vector V, the impact on other domains can be represented as:

 $\Delta impact = M \times \Delta V$ 

## **Explanation**

Model M essentially serves as a matrix M that encapsulates the probabilistic links between various domains of public management.

#### **Predictive Capabilities**

By modifying the vector V (e.g., increasing vL to bolster emphasis on Leadership), one can compute the resultant impact on all other domains using the matrix multiplication: Impact =  $M \times V$ 

This would reveal how Transparency (T) or any other domain might be influenced. Grasping these probabilistic connections empowers stakeholders to anticipate the repercussions of adjustments in specific variables. For example, bolstering emphasis on Leadership (L) can yield insights regarding potential enhancemets or reductions in Transparency (T).

#### **Evaluating Risks**

The matrix M provides insights into the strength of interconnections. For example, a large value of  $m_{CK}$  would imply that Collaboration (C) holds significant influence over Knowledge Sharing (K). Comprehending these interconnections allows for risk identification. If, for

instance, Collaboration (C) holds substantial sway over Knowledge Sharing (K) and initiatives in Collaboration falter, this could signify a threat to the organization's knowledge dissemination efforts

#### Strategic Resource Distribution

By examining the values in vector V and the impacts given by  $M \times V$ , resources can be optimally allocated to maximize desired outcomes. When certain interconnections manifest a strong impact probability, resources can be judiciously directed to those domains to fulfill objectives. If, say, the potential of Digital Technology (E1) propelling Governance Evolution (E2) is notable, higher investments in technological avenues may be prudent.

#### Policy Design and Execution

The matrix  $\underline{M}$  assists policymakers in determining the domains that have the most significant influence and thus need targeted policies. Such models guide policymakers in sculpting policies that pinpoint or accentuate the most pivotal elements. Furthermore, when rolling out these policies, a lucid grasp of the interrelations aids in forecasting potential policy repercussions.

#### **Understanding Feedback Mechanisms**

Feedback loops can be identified by looking for cyclic paths in the matrix M that have high probabilities.

#### Comprehensive Viewpoint

Matrix  $\underline{\mathbf{M}}$  offers a holistic view, encapsulating all domains and their interrelationships, enabling a systemsoriented understanding. Rather than a segmented perspective, Model M promotes a comprehensive, systemsoriented view. It enables stakeholders to envision the full landscape of public management, grasping both the individual entities and their intricate interplay.

#### **Explorative Scenario Testing**

To simulate scenarios, one can tweak the vector V and compute the resultant impacts using M×V. These models shed light on feedback cycles. As an illustration, if elevating Transparency (T) cyclically fortifies Leadership (L), a beneficial loop materializes. Identifying such loops can steer organizations towards maximizing positive ripple effects.

Charting these interconnections through an integrated model equips stakeholders with a robust tool. Beyond offering clarity, it paves the way for informed strategic choices, foresight into upcoming hurdles, and capturing prospects within the sphere of public management.

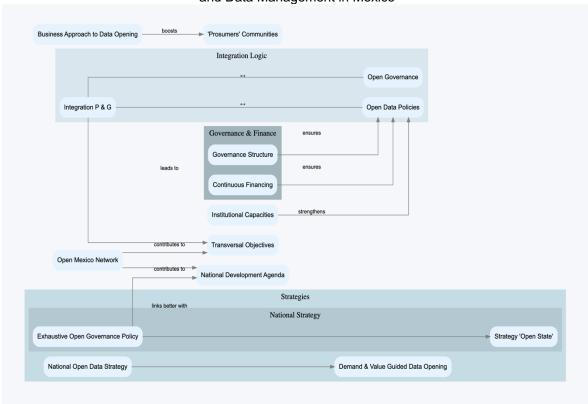
## The LiTCoDE Framework:

## Case Studies Mexico and Vietnam

With information from OECD (2016), Open Government Data Review of Mexico: Data Reuse for Public Sector Impact and Innovation, OECD Digital Government Studies.

In a report presented by the OECD to the Mexican Government,<sup>35</sup> the emphasis is placed on the integration of open data policies with government initiatives to enhance transparency and foster public engagement. There's a call for the establishment of a comprehensive National Open Government Policy, aiming to transition towards an "open state". See Figure 11.

Figure 11
OECD: Strategic Recommendations for Strengthening Open Government and Data Management in Mexico



Source: self made

This would actively involve the Judicial and Legislative branches and resonate with the national development goals. Retaining the current governance model is vital to guarantee ongoing political backing and financial support. The development of a National Open Data Strategy becomes crucial, underscoring data transparency shaped by public demand and value. It's paramount to galvanize prosumer communities, embrace a data-centric business methodology, and bolster institutional capabilities. To wrap up, the Open Mexico Network is identified as instrumental in cultivating intergovernmental cooperation and propelling sustainable development endeavors.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> OECD (2016), Open Government Data Review of Mexico: Data Reuse for Public Sector Impact and Innovation, OECD Digital Government Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264259270-en

Based on the context provided, we can discuss how the LiTCoDE Framework can be applied to public management, specifically in the context of navigating transparency in the digital era and enhancing accountability through leadership and governance reforms, with insights from Mexico and Vietnam. See Figure 12.

Both Mexico and Vietnam have implemented policies and strategies aimed at enhancing transparency in governance. These efforts may include adopting digital technologies to streamline administrative processes, promoting pubic participation, and fostering a culture of openness and accountability within government institutions.

**Leadership and Transparency (Li).** Public management can benefit from strong leadership that promotes transparency. In both Mexico and Vietnam, fostering a transparent and accountable environment within governmental bodies could be essential. This means ensuring that the methods by which decisions are made are not only transparent but also easily understood by the public. Such an approach could encompass the introduction of policies that promote information sharing and stimulate citizen involvement in the decisionmaking procedures.

Figure 12 LiTCoDE Framework Mexico and Vietnam Leadership and Transparency (Li) Implementing policies Public participation Disclosure of information Vietnam: Culture of openness & accountability Mexico: Culture of openness & accountability Transformative Public Management (T) Vietnam: Streamlining processes Mexico: Adopting digital tools Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange (Co) Vietnam: Engaging private sector Mexico: Partnerships with civil society Addressing Transparency Challenges (D) Vietnam: Open data initiatives Mexico: Anti-corruption measures Digital Technology and Governance Evolution (E) Vietnam: Digital Government Transparency Mexico: Digital infrastructure investment Source: Own elaboration

**Transformative Public Management (T)**. The LiTCoDE Framework emphasizes the importance of transformative public management, which can be applied by promoting innovative practices and processes within government institutions. In Mexico and Vietnam, this could involve adopting new technologies and digital tools to streamline administrative processes, improve service delivery, and enhance overall efficiency.

Transformative Public Management (T) focuses on promoting innovative practices and processes within government institutions to improve efficiency, service delivery, and overall performance. In the context of Mexico and Vietnam, T can be applied by adopting new technologies and digital tools to streamline administrative processes and enhance service delivery.

One example of transformative public management can be found in a study on New Public Management, which suggests a shift from the traditional management model to a more democratic decisionmaking process involving the government, the public, and experts.<sup>36</sup> Another example is the use of digital tools and technologies to alleviate the COVID19 pandemic, where Aldriven applications, blockchain technology, big data analytics, and IoT were used to identify, control, track, and manage diseases, predict outbreaks, and facilitate data analysis and decisionmaking processes.<sup>37</sup>

In the case of Vietnam, a study on factors affecting financial management in educational institutions in Ho Chi Minh City revealed that internal control systems, technology infrastructure, top managers' commitment, cash management, and budget systems, as well as organizational responsibility, all played a role in the financial reporting system, which in turn impacted financial management.<sup>38</sup> This suggests that adopting transformative public management practices could help improve financial management in these institutions.

In the context of Mexico, a study on the perception of digital government and artificial intelligence in the public sector in Jalisco found that public officials needed constant training on emerging technological tools, mainly those related to artificial intelligence.<sup>39</sup> This highlights the importance of investing in the development of digital skills among public servants to promote transformative public management.

Overall, case studies from Mexico and Vietnam show that adopting transformative public management practices, such as implementing new technologies and digital tools, can lead to improved efficiency, service delivery, and overall performance in government institutions.

Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange (Co). Collaboration and knowledge exchange are essential components of the LiTCoDE Framework. Within the framework of Mexican and Vietnamese settings, this endeavor might necessitate cultivating collaborative relationships among government entities, organizations from civil society, and corporate enterprises, all in an effort to exchange successful strategies, knowhow, and assets. Such a united front could facilitate the enhancement of public administration through tapping into the distinct strengths and proficiencies that each party brings to the table. Such alliances can enable the exchange of expertise, methodologies, and resources. By harnessing the strengths of different sectors, public administration can be enhanced and made more effective.

<sup>37</sup> See. Chettri, S.K., Debnath, D., & Devi, P. (2020). Leveraging Digital Tools and Technologies to Alleviate COVID19 Pandemic. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=3626092

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> See. Zhang, C. (2022). Research on New Public Management from a Multidimensional Perspectiv. Frontiers in Business, Economics and Management. ISSN: 2766824X Vol. 3, No. 1, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Nguyen, T.Q., Viet, H.T., & Loan, L.T. (2021). Factors affecting financial management: Case study of educational manager training and fostering public institutions. Management Science Letters. doi: 10.5267/j.msl.2021.1.016

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> RuvalcabaGomez, E.A., & Cifuentes-Faura, J. (2023). Analysis of the perception of digital government and artificial intelligence in the public sector in Jalisco, Mexico. International Review of Administrative Sciences. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00208523231164587

The LiTCoDE Framework emphasizes the importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange among different stakeholders, such as government entities, civil society organizations, and corporate enterprises. In the context of Mexican and Vietnamese settings, this collaboration can lead to the exchange of successful strategies, knowhow, and assets, ultimately enhancing public administration by tapping into the distinct strengths and proficiencies of each party involved. 40

Addressing Transparency Challenges (D). In the digital era, addressing transparency challenges is crucial for enhancing accountability in public management. Mexico and Vietnam can apply the LiTCoDE Framework by identifying and addressing issues related to transparency, such as corruption, inefficiencies, and lack of access to information. This may involve implementing anticorruption measures, promoting open data initiatives, and ensuring that digital tools are accessible and userfriendly for citizens.

Mexico has initiated measures to tackle corruption, yet their actions have frequently fallen short due to deepseated institutional and structural issues. <sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, Vietnam has seen notable strides in its battle against corruption, though the issue is still prominent, especially when senior officials are implicated. <sup>42</sup>

Both countries stand to gain by embracing allencompassing approaches that enhance the outcomes of their anticorruption endeavors. Implementing robust solutions in both nations can amplify the success of their efforts to curb corruption.

By advancing initiatives that prioritize open data, both countries can foster greater transparency and responsibility. Making government data readily available empowers the public to scrutinize official actions and hold them to account. Moreover, it's pivotal to ensure that technological resources are both userfriendly and readily available to the public, furthering the drive for transparency. This can involve investing in digital infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and developing userfriendly platforms for accessing government services and information.

**Digital Technology and Governance Evolution (E).** The LiTCoDE Framework highlights the importance of digital technology and governance evolution in public management. In Mexico and Vietnam, this could involve investing in digital infrastructure, promoting digital literacy among citizens and government officials, and adopting innovative digital solutions to improve public services and decisionmaking processes.

The LiTCoDE Framework can be applied in public management by focusing on leadership and transparency, transformative public management, collaboration and knowledge exchange, addressing transparency challenges, and embracing digital technology and governance evolution. By implementing these principles, Mexico and Vietnam can enhance accountability and improve public management in the digital age.

In Mexico, the government has been working on promoting information technologies and increasing internet penetration. However, there have been setbacks due to a misinterpretation of the factors causing the digital divide. The main challenge for policymakers is to encourage private investment in IT infrastructure to increase internet diffusion. <sup>43</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Oxford Analytica (2021), "Mexico's anticorruption measures remain ineffective", Expert Briefing https://doi.org/10.1108/OXANDB265408

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Guertler, M.R., Adams, N., Caldwell, G., Donovan, J., Hopf, A., & Roberts, J. (2022). A LifeCycle Framework to Manage Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange in Open Organisations. Proceedings of the Design Society, 2, 181 190. https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/proceedingsofthedesignsociety/article/lifecycleframeworktomanagecollaborationan dknowledgeexchangeinopenorganisations/F36CE4AC1160840D39E911134A78525E

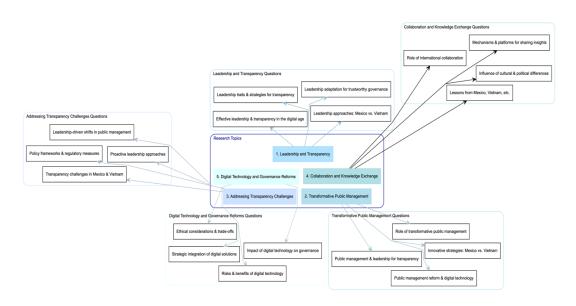
Aisdl (2020). Current Situation of Corruption Offenses and Measures for Improvement of AntiCorruption Effectiveness in Vietnam's Economy. Advances in Economics, Business and Management Research, volume 156. 2nd International Scientific and Practical Conference on Digital Economy (ISCDE 2020) https://www.atlantispress.com/proceedings/iscde20/125947826
 Merritt, H. (2016). The evolving role of public policy in promoting information technologies: The case of Mexico. 2016 Portland International Conference on Management of Engineering and Technology (PICMET), 206214. https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7806754&tag=1

In Vietnam, there's been notable government investment in the digital realm, highlighting the significance of digital advancements for economic progress. <sup>44</sup> Yet, a deeper involvement from the digital governance sector and key economic players remains essential. Policymakers and leaders need to be equipped with a deep understanding of technology trends and innovation technology to apply digital economy development. <sup>45</sup> Mexico and Vietnam can enhance accountability and improve public management in the digital age, ultimately benefiting their citizens and economies.

## **Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Landscape**

The critical roles of leadership and transformative public management in addressing transparency crises. It suggests that by meticulously analyzing the strategies, policies, challenges, and outcomes related to transparency in Mexico and Vietnam, valuable insights and recommendations can be extracted. These insights, centered on leadershipdriven shifts in public management, are proposed to hold relevance beyond the specific case studies, offering actionable approaches for other nations facing analogous challenges in maintaining transparent governance. See Figure 13.

Figure 13
Navigating Transparency Crises: The Integral Role of Leadership and Public Management in the Digital Age



Source: Own elaboration

1. Leadership and Transparency

In the modern digital landscape in both Mexico and Vietnam, effective leadership is essential for promoting accountability and transparency in governance.<sup>46</sup> One of the main barriers to digital development in Mexico is the absence of senior leadership and ICT strategy.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Huy, D.T., Linh, T.N., Dung, N.T., Thuy, P.T., Thanh, T.V., & Hoàng, N.T. (2021). Investment attraction for digital economy, digital technology sector in digital transformation era from ODA investment and comparison to FDI investment in Vietnam. Laplage EM Revista. vol.7, n. 3A, Sept. Dec. 2021, p.427 439.

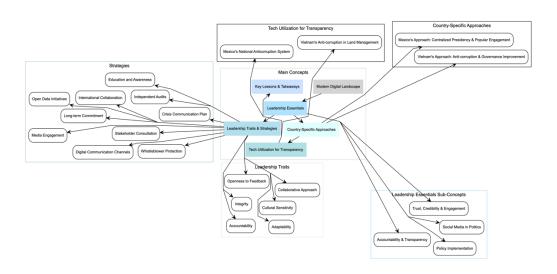
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Khanh, N.T., Phuong, T.V., & Do, T. (2021). The Influences of Technology on Digital Economy Development in Vietnam. Int. J. Softw. Innov., 9, 1018. https://www.igiglobal.com/gateway/article/289166

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Effective leadership is crucial for promoting transparency and accountable governance in today's digital realm. Key leadership traits include integrity, adaptability, and open communication. To tackle transparency crises, leaders must prioritize genuine public information dissemination. Adapting to digital technology challenges requires leaders to stay updated and promote digital literacy. Interestingly, leadership styles in Mexico and Vietnam differ: while Mexico emphasizes regulatory

However, effective policy implementation is a crucial element for increasing the transparency and accountability of the Mexican federal government. Social media usage in politics has significantly increased in Vietnam, where concepts like accountability and transparency are crucial in the nation's elite politics.

Any leader who wants to develop a relationship of trust, credibility, and engagement with their team, stakeholders, and clients must also possess transparency and accountability. Leaders can foster more by being open and responsible. Leaders in both Mexico and Vietnam can use technology to enhance citizen participation and engagement, anticorruption initiatives, and government transparency and accountability. See Figure 14.

Figure 14 Digital Leadership in Focus: Navigating Transparency Challenges in Mexico and Vietnam for Global Insights



Source: Own elaboration

Figure 14 indicates that addressing transparency crises in public information dissemination in both Mexico and Vietnam necessitates a blend of leadership traits and strategies attuned to the unique cultural, political, and social contexts of each country. While there may be overlapping elements, it's crucial to customize approaches to the distinct challenges of each nation. There are several leadership traits and strategies that might be particularly effective in both Mexico and Vietnam.

#### Leadership Traits

a) Integrity. Leaders should demonstrate unwavering integrity in their actions and decisions. This is crucial for rebuilding trust in the government and ensuring that information is accurate

b) Openness to Feedback. Leaders should actively encourage and listen to feedback from citizens, media, and civil society. This helps identify concerns early on and shows a commitment to addressing them.

frameworks, Vietnam stresses on centralized control. These differences underscore the importance of understanding cultural contexts when implementing transparency strategies internationally. Adopting a blend of both approaches could offer a comprehensive solution for global transparency challenges.

- c) Accountability. A transparent leader takes responsibility for mistakes and shortcomings, and holds themselves and their team accountable for rectifying any misinformation or failures in information dissemination.
- d) Cultural Sensitivity. Understanding the cultural norms and values of Mexico and Vietnam is important for tailoring communication strategies that resonate with the local population.
- e) Collaborative Approach. Leaders should foster collaboration between different government agencies, civil society groups, media, and international organizations to collectively address transparency issues.
- f) Adaptability. The ability to adapt strategies and policies in response to evolving challenges and feedback is crucial for maintaining transparency.

#### Strategies

- a) Open Data Initiatives. Launch platforms that provide public access to government data and information. This enhances transparency and empowers citizens to hold leaders accountable.
- b) Whistleblower Protection. Implement mechanisms to protect whistleblowers who expose corruption or misinformation within the government. This encourages transparency from within the system.
- c) Media Engagement. Foster a cooperative relationship with media outlets. Regular press conferences, briefings, and access to accurate information can help combat misinformation.
- d) Digital Communication Channels. Leverage social media and other digital platforms to disseminate accurate and timely information directly to the public.
- e) Independent Audits. Conduct regular independent audits of government processes and information dissemination practices. This adds credibility to the transparency efforts.
- f) Stakeholder Consultation. Engage with civil society organizations, academic institutions, and experts to gain diverse perspectives and inputs on transparency initiatives.
- g) Education and Awareness. Invest in public awareness campaigns that educate citizens about their rights to information and how to discern accurate information from misinformation.
- h) Crisis Communication Plan. Develop a clear plan for addressing transparency crises swiftly and effectively, including acknowledging the issue, sharing accurate information, and outlining steps for resolution.
- i) International Collaboration. Engage with international organizations and partners to learn from best practices in other countries and to benefit from their expertise.
- j) Longterm Commitment. Transparency is a continuous effort. Leaders should make a longterm commitment to maintaining transparency even after the immediate crisis has been addressed.

These strategies and traits can provide a foundation, successful leadership in addressing transparency crises will require tailoring approaches based on the unique challenges and dynamics of each country.

In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) employs a centralized presidency, emphasizing popular engagement and mobilization in his transformational movement, known as the Fourth Transformation.<sup>47</sup> Despite having a parliamentary majority, AMLO's leadership style heavily relies on popular engagement and mobilization. He has developed a personalistic and highly centralized presidency, defining his administration as a transformational movement. This approach has led to concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and institutions in Mexico.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Oxford Analytica (2018), "Prospects for Mexico in 2019", Expert Briefings.https://doi.org/10.1108/OXANDB240173

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> SánchezTalanquer, M., & Greene, K.F. (2021). Is Mexico Falling into the Authoritarian Trap? Journal of Democracy, 32, 56 71. https://muse.jhu.edu/article/815937

AMLO's Fourth Transformation aims to become a milestone in Mexico's history, as transformative as the country's independence from Spain, the revolution of 1910 that produced the current political system, and the nationalization of the oil industry in 1938.<sup>49</sup> The movement seeks to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and corruption. <sup>50</sup> However, critics argue that AMLO's centralization of power and increased reliance on the military pose a greater threat to Mexico's democracy than a new electoral hegemon.

Some of the concerns related to AMLO's leadership style include the potential weakening of the finances of Pemex, Mexico's stateowned oil company <sup>51</sup>, and the possibility of further downgrades in Mexico's credit rating. <sup>52</sup> Additionally, AMLO's energy policies have been criticized for jeopardizing economic growth. Despite these concerns, AMLO remains popular among the Mexican population, and his administration continues to pursue its transformative agenda. <sup>53</sup>

In contrast, Vietnam's Communist Party adopts a stricter stance on corruption, focusing on governance improvements and centrallocal policy coordination. Both countries utilize technology for transparency, anticorruption, and public engagement. Mexico has the National Anticorruption System, while Vietnam combats corruption in land management.

Land management has been identified as one of the most corruptionprone areas. <sup>54</sup> Typical cases involve undervaluing land prices or inflating investment costs in land deals. <sup>55</sup> Lack of transparency and weak rule of law contribute to persistent corruption issues. Vietnam's legal framework and institutions for anticorruption are present but enforcement is problematic. <sup>56</sup> Restrictions on press freedom and civil society limit monitoring of corruption. Statecontrolled media and restrictions on activists make it difficult to expose corruption fully. <sup>57</sup>

Key takeaways include embracing technology, fostering innovation, inclusivity for diverse perspectives, and digital strategies for public policy. These lessons can guide international contexts and prepare countries for technological disruptions.

## **Transformative Public Management**

Transformative public management plays a pivotal role in effectively managing transparency challenges and bolstering accountable governance within the contemporary digital landscape of Mexico and Vietnam.

In Mexico, a comprehensive suite of cuttingedge anticorruption measures, collectively known as the National Anticorruption System, has been enacted by the government. Under the leadership of President AMLO, a highly centralized presidential model has been cultivated, characterizing his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Oxford Analytica (2019), "Pemex downgrades hit AMLO's economic vision for Mexico", Expert Briefings. https://doi.org/10.1108/OXANDB244443

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> López Villafañe, V. (2021). El fin de la época neoliberal en México y el proyecto transformador del nuevo gobierno de Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Observatorio del Desarrollo. Investigación, Reflexión y Análisis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Oxford Analytica (2019), "Pemex downgrades hit AMLO's economic vision for Mexico", Expert Briefings. https://doi.org/10.1108/OXANDB244443

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Oxford Analytica (2019), "Mexico's domestic policies jeopardise economic growth", Expert Briefings. https://doi.org/10.1108/OXANDB244329

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Oxford Analytica (2019), "Concerns over AMLO's plans will only grow in Mexico", Exper Briefings.https://doi.org/10.1108/OXANDB245509

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Le Hong Hiep (2019) The Impact of Vietnam's Anticorruption Campaign on the Real Estate Sector. Researchers at Iseas – Yusof Ishak Institute Analyse Current Events. May 31 2019. Issue: 2019 No. 46. https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/ISEAS\_Perspective\_2019\_46.pdf

<sup>55</sup> Thai, L. Q. (2022). Legal issues on land corruption in Vietnam. Cogito, 14(1), 91114. Retrieved from https://www.proquest.com/scholarlyjournals/legalissuesonlandcorruptionvietnam/docview/2647725571/se2

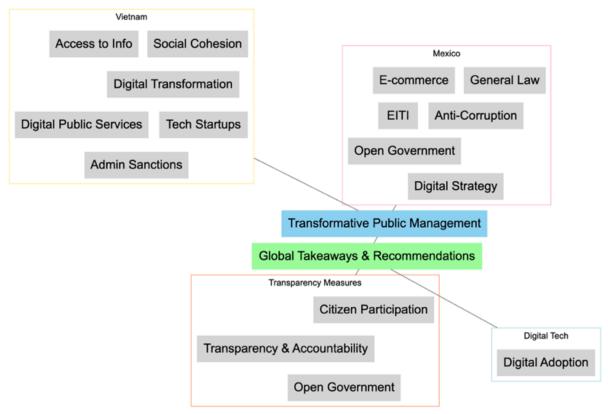
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Maira Martini (2012) Overview of corruption and anticorruption in Vietnam. Transparency International, https://www.u4.no/publications/overviewofcorruptionandanticorruptioninvietnam

Human Rights Watch (2023). Vietnam: Free AntiCorruption Campaigner. June 5 2023. https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/06/05/vietnamfreeanticorruptioncampaigner

administration as a vehicle for profound change. This approach hinges significantly on active public engagement and widespread mobilization efforts.

In contrast, the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) in Vietnam has adopted a stricter anticorruption stance. The Vietnamese government has made notable efforts that enhance governance and facilitate effective coordination between central and local authorities. The improvement of transparency and the reduction of corruption risks in land management has been an important area of focus. See Figure 15.

Figure 15
Comparative Digital Transformation and Transparency Initiatives in Mexico and Vietnam:
Harnessing Technology for Enhanced Governance and Citizen Engagement



Source: Own elaboration

In the Figure 15, both nations, harnessing the potential of technology stands as a powerful tool for augmenting transparency, accountability in governance, anticorruption endeavors, and citizen participation. While Vietnam is directing its energies towards elevating transparency and curbing corruption in land management, Mexico faces challenges stemming from a deficiency in highlevel leadership and strategic planning regarding information and communication technology (ICT) development. Notwithstanding this, the Mexican government has embarked on significant strides to rectify its ruleoflaw gaps, most prominently through the establishment of the National Anticorruption System.

Transformative public management has become pivotal in addressing transparency crises and fostering accountable governance in today's digital era. By streamlining bureaucratic processes and leveraging technology, it ensures public services are delivered more efficiently and transparently. Mexico and Vietnam, in particular, have embarked on innovative public management strategies to navigate transparency challenges. Both nations have incorporated digital platforms to enable open access to data, actively engaged citizens in decisionmaking through eparticipation, and established mechanisms for realtime feedback.

These strategies, while contextspecific, offer a blueprint for other nations to adapt and refine based on their unique circumstances. Additionally, as countries worldwide adopt digital technologies, the reform of public management becomes crucial in mitigating data protection and information authenticity challenges. This reform is not just about implementing technology but ensuring it aligns with ethical standards, ensuring the credibility of disseminated information. Lastly, shifts in public management are aligned with leadership initiatives, which prioritize transparency. This alignment underscores a holistic approach, where management and leadership work in tandem to promote transparent dissemination of public information, fostering trust and enhancing public sector accountability.

The disparity between these two countries holds valuable lessons for the global arena. Key takeaways encompass the imperative of embracing emergent technologies, cultivating an atmosphere conducive to innovation, nurturing inclusivity to accommodate diverse viewpoints, and deploying digital strategies and technologies that synergize with public policy objectives. By adopting these proactive measures, leaders can orchestrate a paradigm shift in the public sector, effectively priming their respective nations to adeptly navigate the challenges posed by the era of technological disruptions.

In Vietnam, a significant step towards transparency was taken in 2018 with the enactment of an access to information law, granting citizens the right to access governmentheld information. This legislative move has proven pivotal in enhancing transparency and bolstering accountability within Vietnam's governance.

Additionally, citizen participation has emerged as a key strategy in both countries for fostering transparency and accountability. In Vietnam, active citizen involvement has specifically contributed to improved transparency and accountability in land management practices. By allowing citizens to monitor and report instances of corruption in this domain, the Vietnamese government has harnessed citizen oversight to drive greater integrity.

The lessons drawn from these innovative approaches hold substantial promise for application beyond Mexico and Vietnam. Countries worldwide can adopt similar policies to enhance their own governance landscapes. Access to information laws akin to Mexico's General Law of Transparency can lay a robust foundation for heightened transparency and public trust. By enabling citizens to access pertinent government information, nations can lay the groundwork for informed decisionmaking and effective public oversight.

The concept of open government, as embraced by Mexico, can be instrumental in amplifying citizen engagement globally. Through the dissemination of open data and the creation of digital platforms, governments can invite their citizens to actively contribute to policy discussions and provide feedback. This participatory approach not only enhances transparency but also fortifies the bond between the government and its constituents.

In the broader context of international adaptability, these strategies carry significant implications. Countries aspiring to enhance transparency should consider enacting comprehensive access to information laws that empower citizens with the right to government data. Embracing the principles of open government can reshape the citizenstate dynamic and stimulate collaboration for effective governance.

Nonetheless, challenges persist. The effectiveness of these strategies hinges on robust implementation and enforcement mechanisms. The establishment of regulatory frameworks, capacity building, and technological infrastructure are prerequisites to realizing the full potential of innovative public management approaches.

Mexico and Vietnam have pioneered innovative strategies in public management to confront the transparency challenges posed by the digital era. The enactment of laws promoting access to information and the embrace of open government principles stand out as exemplars of progressive

governance. The promotion of citizen participation, particularly in the Vietnamese context of land management, underscores the transformative power of involving the public in accountability efforts.

These strategies, with appropriate tailoring, offer valuable tools for countries worldwide striving to fortify transparency and accountability. By adapting such measures, nations can not only navigate the complexities of the digital age but also usher in a new era of governance characterized by openness, collaboration, and public trust.

In the realm of digital technology adoption, Mexico and Vietnam have leveraged innovative public management strategies to address data protection and information authenticity challenges. Here are some of these strategies employed in both countries, along with their potential adaptability to other nations.

#### In Mexico

- a) General Law of Transparency. This law has played a pivotal role in enhancing transparency and accountability in Mexico. Moreover, the law incorporates measures for safeguarding personal data and ensuring the authenticity of information.
- b) Open Government. Mexico's government has embraced an open government policy, aimed at fostering citizen participation and transparency in decisionmaking. This policy involves publishing open data and creating digital platforms for citizen engagement.

#### In Vietnam

- a) Access to Information. In 2018, Vietnam ratified an access to information law, entitling citizens to government information access. This legal framework has proven instrumental in elevating transparency and accountability in Vietnam.
- b) Digitalization of Public Services. Vietnam has embarked on an endeavor to digitize public services, thereby enhancing efficiency and transparency in service delivery. This digital transformation has concurrently bolstered the protection of personal data and information authenticity.

These innovative public management strategies possess the potential to be replicated in other countries through the adoption of similar policies and laws. For instance, nations can consider implementing access to information laws and open government policies to amplify transparency and accountability. Additionally, the digitalization of public services can augment efficiency and transparency in service provision on a global scale. The technological aspects of these strategies are underpinned by data protection and information integrity. The General Law of Transparency in Mexico and the information access law in Vietnam encapsulate provisions that resonate with contemporary data privacy concerns. By safeguarding personal data, these legal measures underscore the importance of data protection in the digital era.

Furthermore, the digitalization of public services contributes to a more secure and authentic data ecosystem. As services shift to digital platforms, mechanisms for data encryption, secure authentication, and digital signatures become integral. This not only ensures the authenticity of information but also builds user trust in the digital service environment.

In a broader context, the crosscountry applicability of these strategies hinges on regulatory frameworks and technological infrastructure. Establishing legal mandates for data protection, information sharing, and digital service standards lays the groundwork for successful implementation. Robust digital infrastructure, including secure databases and robust authentication mechanisms, is imperative to uphold the integrity of digitized services.

The proactive strategies adopted by Mexico and Vietnam in public management hold significant relevance for the digital age. These approaches, driven by principles of transparency, data protection, and authenticity, can be emulated globally. By adopting similar policies and harnessing digitalization to enhance service efficiency and transparency, countries can pave the way for more accountable governance in an increasingly digital world.

The current state of digital technology adoption in Mexico and Vietnam is as follows. See next Figure 16.

#### In Mexico

- a) Public Sector Digitalization. Mexico has implemented the National Digital Strategy, aimed at digitalizing the public sector and expanding broadband access. This strategy aims to enhance efficiency and transparency in delivering government services.
- b) Ecommerce Growth. The COVID19 pandemic has accelerated digitalization in Mexico, leading to significant growth in ecommerce. The country ranks among the top five globally in terms of ecommerce growth.

#### In Vietnam

- a) Digital Transformation. Vietnam has established a national digital transformation strategy with the goal of increasing the digital economy's contribution to the GDP to 20% by 2025. The country is focusing on digitizing the economy to become a highincome economy by 2045.
- b) Support for Tech Startups. The Vietnamese government has introduced supportive measures for tech startups, generating investor interest. Sectors like fintech, retail, healthcare, and payment solutions are highly sought after for funding.

These advancements in digital technology adoption in Mexico and Vietnam can serve as examples and lessons for other countries. Strategies that could be adapted include:

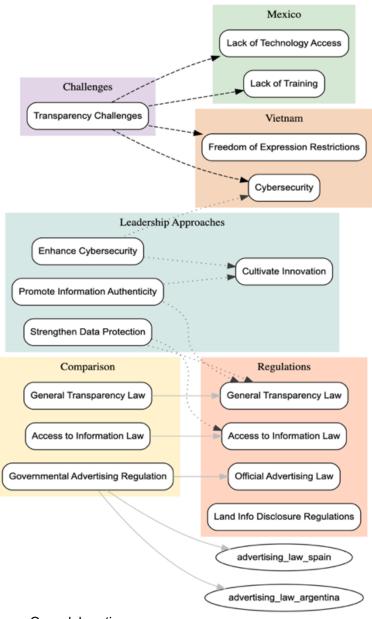
- 1. Implementing national digital transformation strategies to boost the digital economy and improve efficiency in delivering public services.
- 2. Promoting ecommerce and supporting tech startups to drive innovation and economic growth.
- 3. Enhancing broadband access and promoting digitalization across sectors to increase digital inclusion and narrow the digital divide.
- 4. These strategies can assist other countries in harnessing the benefits of digital technology while addressing data protection and information authenticity challenges in the digital era.

Mexico and Vietnam are proactively implementing diverse initiatives to elevate transparency within their public management systems. Noteworthy ongoing endeavors in both nations include:

#### Mexico

- a) Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). This initiative is geared towards augmenting accountability and transparency in Mexico's extractive industries. Its overarching objective is to institutionalize transparency by fostering structural reforms, establishing new routines, practices, and procedures that align with established standards.
- b) AntiCorruption Measures. Mexico has undertaken measures to counter corruption and enhance transparency within its public administration. While progress continues to be made, significant strides have been taken to curtail corruption within the nation.

Figure 16
Digital Technology and Its Impact on Transparency:
Challenges and Solutions in Mexico and Vietnam



Source: Own elaboration

#### Vietnam

- a) Administrative Sanctions. Vietnam has enforced administrative sanctions against entities and individuals that fall short of transparency benchmarks. A prime example is the punitive action imposed on Towards Transparency, a Vietnamese organization engaged in transparencyrelated initiatives.
- b) Enhancing Social Cohesion and Transparency. Vietnam is actively implementing programs to amplify transparency and social cohesion. The MEPP project (Improving Transparency and Social Cohesion in Mexico) is a case in point, aiming to bolster the investigative

capabilities of Mexican regulatory bodies in probing collusion and other forms of anticompetitive behavior.

These initiatives underscore the dedication of both Mexico and Vietnam to bolster transparency within their public management systems. While the outlined efforts are just a fraction of their comprehensive strategies, they demonstrate a shared commitment to accountability and transparency in their respective administrative domains.

## **Addressing Transparency Challenges**

The adoption of digital technology in Mexico and Vietnam has brought forth distinct challenges in terms of transparency, significantly impacting responsible and reliable governance.<sup>58</sup> The ensuing challenges and their implications are outlined below. See next Figure 10.

#### Mexico

- a) Lack of Technology Access: Despite strides in digital technology adoption, Mexico still grapples with a considerable digital divide. This divide translates to a significant portion of the population lacking access to the necessary technology for information retrieval and participation in decisionmaking processes.
- b) Lack of Training: The absence of digital technology training further compounds transparency challenges in Mexico. Many public officials might lack the requisite skills to employ technology effectively and transparently.

#### Vietnam

- a) Cybersecurity. The surge in digital technology adoption in Vietnam has escalated the risk of cyberattacks and heightened the vulnerability of public information. This susceptibility could undermine trust in the government and transparency in public management.
- b) Freedom of Expression Restrictions. In Vietnam, the government has harnessed digital technology to curb freedom of expression and curtail access to public information. This situation can impede accountability and transparency in public management.

On the whole, the integration of digital technology in Mexico and Vietnam has posed distinctive challenges for transparency and responsible governance. Addressing these challenges is imperative to ensure that digital technology is harnessed effectively and transparently in public management. By bridging technology gaps, enhancing digital literacy, fortifying cybersecurity measures, and upholding freedom of expression, both countries can navigate these challenges and steer their digital transformation towards more transparent and accountable governance.

To tackle challenges related to data protection and information authenticity in the digital era in Mexico and Vietnam, proactive and innovative leadership approaches can prove effective. Below are ways in which these approaches can yield positive outcomes:

#### Mexico

- Strengthening Data Protection Legislation. Mexico possesses federal legislation governing personal data protection, stipulating principles and requirements for data treatment. However, additional efforts are necessary to bolster law enforcement and ensure the proper safeguarding of personal data.
- 2. Promoting Information Authenticity Mexican leaders can advocate for information authenticity by implementing data verification and validation technologies. This can help ensure the accuracy and reliability of public information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Digital technology has introduced transparency challenges in Mexico and Vietnam, affecting governance. These challenges include data protection and ensuring information authenticity. Proactive leadership can address these by promoting innovation and understanding of the digital landscape. Mexico has implemented regulatory frameworks while Vietnam leans towards centralized control to tackle transparency crises. Although their strategies are contextspecific, elements can be transferable to other countries. Leadershipdriven changes in public management can greatly address transparency issues. However, barriers like cultural differences, resource constraints, and political dynamics can hinder such implementations in varied international contexts.

#### Vietnam

- 1. Enhancing Cybersecurity: Vietnam can address data protection and information authenticity challenges by fortifying cybersecurity measures. This might involve implementing information security protocols and promoting cybersecurity education.
- 2. Cultivating Innovation: Vietnamese leaders can foster innovation in digital technology to tackle data protection and information authenticity challenges. This may encompass promoting research and development of data verification and validation technologies.

Overall, leaders in Mexico and Vietnam can confront data protection and information authenticity challenges in the digital era through proactive and innovative leadership approaches. It is crucial that measures are taken to ensure accurate, reliable, and secure public information in both countries. By prioritizing data protection, investing in technologydriven verification methods, and fostering a culture of innovation, both nations can pave the way for responsible and transparent governance in the digital age.

In both Mexico and Vietnam, various regulations have been implemented to enhance transparency in public management. Here are some of these regulations in both countries and how they compare to others:

#### Mexico

- General Transparency Law. In 2015, the Mexican Congress enacted the General Transparency Law, which establishes principles and requirements for public information access. This law is the result of efforts by transparency advocates and local NGOs. Mexico boasts one of the world's best right to information legislations, as per the Global Right to Information Rating.
- 2. Official Advertising Law. In 2021, Mexico introduced the Official Advertising Law, aimed at regulating government advertising and enhancing transparency in resource utilization.

#### Vietnam

Access to Information Law. In 2016, Vietnam enacted the Access to Information Law, delineating rights and obligations related to public information access. This law seeks to

delineating rights and obligations related to public information access. This law seeks to improve transparency and accountability within the country.

2. Land Information Disclosure Regulations. In Vietnam, regulations for the disclosure of land information have been put in place to enhance transparency in land management.

## **Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange**

International collaboration and knowledge exchange among nations can contribute to fortifying transparency and accountable governance in the digital landscape in Mexico and Vietnam through various means. <sup>59</sup>

For instance, Mexico's National AntiCorruption System (NAS) can serve as a model for Vietnam, while Vietnam's efforts to ensure the right to information can inspire Mexico. See next Figure 8.

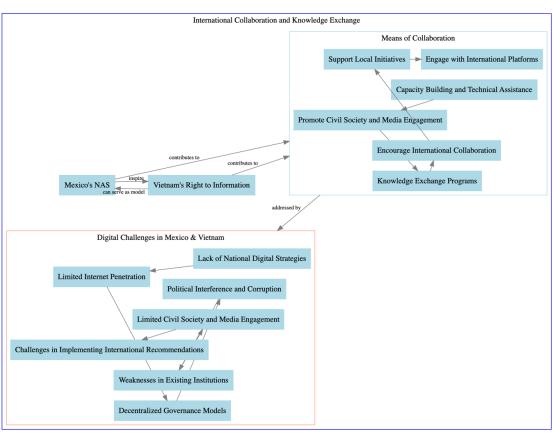
a) Capacity building and technical assistance. International organizations, such as USAID, can work alongside Mexican and Vietnamese stakeholders to develop their institutional and technical capacity to implement transparency and accountability measures.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> International collaboration and knowledge exchange strengthen transparency and accountability in the digital arena. Mechanisms like international forums, joint task forces, and digital platforms can facilitate experience sharing among nations. However, cultural, political, and socioeconomic differences can influence collaboration outcomes. Lessons from Mexico, Vietnam, and other countries reveal the importance of understanding contextspecific challenges and solutions. By integrating these insights, countries can foster a collaborative environment, leveraging shared experiences and strategies to drive governance reforms and enhance transparency in the digital age.

- b) Promoting civil society and media engagement. Encouraging the involvement of civil society, independent media, and private sector in monitoring corruption issues and promoting transparency can help hold governments accountable.
- c) Knowledge exchange programs. Efforts like the Vietnam AntiCorruption Initiative Program, which underscores the dissemination of insights on transparency, integrity, and accountability, could be implemented in Mexico to advance a culture of openness and accountability.
- d) Encouraging international collaboration. The U.S.Mexico HighLevel Economic Dialogue seeks to enhance transparency and accountability by engaging with civil society, the private sector, academia, labor, and various nongovernmental entities. Similar collaborations can be established between Vietnam and other countries.
- e) Supporting local initiatives: Organizations like Towards Transparency in Vietnam work to raise awareness and advocate for transparent and accountable governance. Supporting such initiatives can help create a more open and accountable environment in both Mexico and Vietnam.
- f) Engaging with international platforms. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an international platform that promotes transparent and accountable governance. By participating in the OGP, Mexico and Vietnam can learn from other countries and share their own experiences in promoting transparency and accountability. See Figure 17.

Figure 17
Strategies and Challenges in Enhancing Digital Transparency and Accountability:
A Comparative Analysis of Mexico and Vietnam



Source: Own elaboration

In summary, international collaboration and knowledge exchange can help Mexico and Vietnam strengthen transparency and accountable governance in the digital landscape by sharing best practices, providing technical assistance, promoting civil society engagement, fostering knowledge

exchange, encouraging international cooperation, supporting local initiatives, and engaging with international platforms like the OGP. Achieving transparency and accountable governance in the digital landscape in Mexico and Vietnam faces several challenges:

- a) Lack of comprehensive national digital strategies. Both countries have struggled to create and implement cohesive digital strategies that address transparency and accountability issues.
- b) Limited internet penetration. In Vietnam, 26.8% of the population remained offline at the beginning of 2022.

This digital divide can hinder the effectiveness of transparency and accountability initiatives that rely on digital platforms.

- a) Decentralized governance models. In Vietnam, the decentralized model of governance, with 63 provinces responsible for most decisionmaking and implementation of public services, can create challenges for implementing nationwide transparency and accountability initiatives.
- b) Political interference and corruption. Both Mexico and Vietnam face issues related to political interference and corruption, which can undermine efforts to promote transparency and accountable governance.
- c) Weaknesses in existing institutions. In Mexico, the transparency agency has been intentionally paralyzed, undermining citizens right to access public information and make decisions about their personal data. In Vietnam, corruption has emerged as a significant concern in the 2022 PAPI report.
- d) Limited civil society and media engagement. In both countries, there is a need to promote greater involvement of civil society, independent media, and the private sector in monitoring corruption issues and promoting transparency.
- e) Challenges in implementing international recommendations. Mexico has made progress in implementing OECD recommendations for its National Auditing System, but further work is needed to demonstrate the positive impact of recent reforms.

To address these challenges, both countries need to develop comprehensive national digital strategies, improve internet penetration, strengthen existing institutions, promote civil society and media engagement, and implement international recommendations for transparency and accountable governance.

Mechanisms and platforms that can facilitate the sharing of experiences and insights among different countries facing similar transparency challenges in the digital landscape in Mexico and Vietnam include:

- a) International organizations. Organizations like Transparency International and USAID work to promote transparency and accountable governance across the globe. They can serve as platforms for sharing experiences and best practices among countries.
- b) Regional trade agreements. Agreements like the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Vietnam can include provisions related to transparency and accountable governance, fostering cooperation and knowledge exchange among participating countries.
- c) Online platforms and forums. Websites and forums dedicated to transparency and accountability, such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative, can facilitate the sharing of experiences and insights among different countries.
- d) Collaborative research projects. Joint research initiatives between institutions in different countries can help generate new knowledge and insights on transparency and accountable governance in the digital landscape.

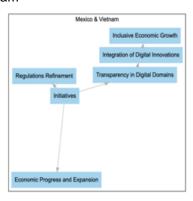
By leveraging these mechanisms and platforms, countries like Mexico and Vietnam can learn from each other's experiences and work together to address common challenges related to transparency and accountable governance in the digital landscape.

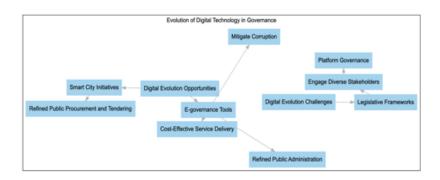
Cultural differences between Mexico and Vietnam that could impact international collaboration include workrelated values and time perception. In Vietnam, significant differences in workrelated values have been observed between Western managers and Vietnamese employees, with time perception and faceconcern being the two largest differences. These differences can affect the success of international collaboration in enhancing transparency in the workplace. Additionally, Vietnam has a history of cultural divergence along the individualism collectivism dimension, which can also influence international cooperation.

Political differences between Mexico and Vietnam can also affect international collaboration in enhancing transparency. Mexico has made efforts to improve transparency by enacting the General Transparency Law in 2015, aiming to create uniform access to information legislation across the country. However, differences in institutional capacities across states still affect the effectiveness of transparency measures. See Figure 18.

Figure 18
Comparative Digital Evolution: Governance Reforms and Advancements in Mexico and Vietnam









Source: Own elaboration

On the other hand, Vietnam has been working on settling maritime boundaries and undertaking joint projects with other countries in areas such as fisheries, coast guard, hydrocarbon development, and

marine scientific research. These efforts can contribute to building trust and cooperation in enhancing transparency. Socioeconomic factors that could influence the success of international collaboration in enhancing transparency in Mexico and Vietnam include regional and socioeconomic disparities in Mexico and the quality of healthcare and public health in Vietnam.

Addressing these disparities and improving the quality of public services can contribute to fostering a more conducive environment for international collaboration in enhancing transparency.

## **Digital Technology and Governance Reforms**

Digital advancements are paving the way for enhanced transparency in Mexico and Vietnam. <sup>60</sup> In Mexico, the collaboration between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and various local entities — encompassing the public, private, and nongovernmental sectors — is instrumental in building both institutional and technical capabilities. This collaboration aims to effectively enforce the National AntiCorruption.

System (NAS) and foster greater transparency, especially in public procurements. Concurrently, the Mexican government is channeling its efforts into a National Digital Strategy. This strategy is designed to refine service delivery through digital methodologies.

Meanwhile, Vietnam is striving to construct a sophisticated digital financial ecosystem. With set objectives to fortify cybersecurity and optimize efficiency, Vietnam aspires to achieve a prominent ranking in the Global Innovation Index, Global Cybersecurity Index, and the eGovernment Development Index by the close of 203034. Furthermore, Vietnam's digital metamorphosis is positively influencing its educational sector, enhancing the caliber of education and training. It's also democratizing access to educational materials, particularly for students in geographically isolated or underprivileged regions

According to figure 8, in both Mexico and Vietnam are actively launching initiatives tailored to stimulate economic progress and expansion. Moreover, they are prioritizing the cultivation of transparency and probity within their digital domains. This involves refining regulations in the information, communication, cybersecurity, telecom, and infrastructure spheres for better compatibility and reduced risks6. Emphasizing the integration of digital innovations, both nations are geared towards accelerating innovation and fostering an inclusive economic growth.

The evolution of digital technology in governance simultaneously offers opportunities and challenges in achieving accountable and trustworthy governance. This technology has empowered governments to bolster efficiency, elevate transparency, and foster enhanced communication with their citizens. Egovernance tools, for instance, can refine public administration processes, mitigate corruption, and deliver services to citizens in a more costeffective manner. Furthermore, initiatives in smart cities employ digital technologies to augment various aspects of urban life, such as refining public procurement and tendering processes.

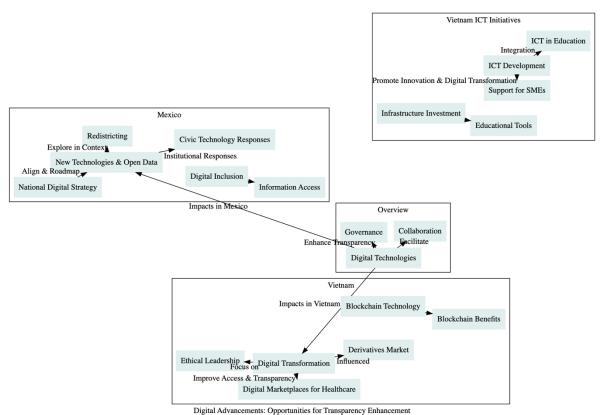
To harness these benefits fully, governments must craft supportive legislative frameworks and engage a diverse range of stakeholders, from operators to consumers, in shaping the governance of these platforms. With a thoughtful approach, governments can harness digital solutions and technological innovations to address transparency issues and drive forward governance reforms. See next Figure 19.

General Transparency Law and Vietnam's maritime projects illustrate varied approaches to enhance transparency. Lessons from these countries emphasize the importance of understanding regional disparities and public service quality to create a collaborative environment for digital governance reforms.

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<sup>60</sup> International collaboration and knowledge exchange can bolster digital transparency and accountable governance. Mechanisms like international organizations, trade agreements, online forums, and joint research initiatives facilitate experience sharing. However, cultural, political, and socioeconomic differences can impact the success of these collaborations. For instance, work values in Viotacra differ from Western norms, effective collaboration effectiveness. Mexicals

Figure 19
Comparative Digital Transparency Initiatives:
Vietnam and Mexico in Focus



Source: Own elaboration

Digital technologies offer numerous opportunities for enhancing transparency in governance. For example, digital platforms can facilitate information sharing, public participation, and collaboration between governments and citizens. Additionally, digital tools can streamline administrative processes, making them more efficient and transparent.

## **Digital Advancements:**

## Opportunities for Transparency Enhancement

In Vietnam, digital transformation has influenced the derivatives market, with digital technology platforms supporting its development and providing data privacy solutions for investors. Digital marketplaces have been developed to improve healthcare access and transparency.

According with Figure 20, in Mexico, the use of new technologies and open data has been explored in the context of redistricting to improve political representation. For instance, institutional responses to civic technology in Latin America, including Mexico, have shown that there are barriers to openness created by institutionalized behaviors and norms. In Vietnam, ethical leadership in the digital era is a topic of concern, with a focus on increasing transparency, accountability, and connections between leaders and subordinates.

Mexico and Vietnam have made progress in enhancing digital transparency across various sectors. However, challenges remain in terms of institutional behaviors, norms, and ethical leadership that need to be addressed to fully realize the potential of digital advancements in these countries.

## **Government Digital Transparency Agencies**

Mexican government agency responsible for digital transparency is the National Digital Strategy (Estrategia Digital Nacional), part of the National Development Plan.<sup>61</sup> This agency seeks to align highlevel policy directives with central policies and international commitments to create an evolving open data roadmap based on best practices.

It also emphasizes the need to integrate digital skills development for all social sectors and expand telecommunication services for indigenous people, the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and the extremely marginalized. The National Digital Strategy may have increased transparency and accountability by making government operations and decisionmaking more accessible.

The Vietnamese government has actively promoted ICT development to boost economic and social development. They have established agencies to support major policy initiatives. The development of a digital healthcare system and the exploration of blockchain technology show their commitment to digital transparency. Although the agency overseeing digital transparency in the agricultural supply chain is unknown, the government's commitment is clear.

The Vietnamese government has promoted ICT development through several policies to boost economic and social development. Specific policy efforts include:

The government has prioritized ICT integration in education to improve teaching, learning, and service delivery. This requires increasing student and instructor digital usage and ICT skills and investing in educational institutions' ICT infrastructure. The government supports SMEs because they promote innovation and digital transformation. The government has regulations and programs to help Vietnamese SMEs innovate and digitalize.

Data Protection and Information Authenticity Issues Digital technologies have pros and cons in terms of data security and authenticity. Data privacy and security affect public trust in government. The proliferation of digital information raises questions about data authenticity and reliability, which can hinder transparency efforts. <sup>62</sup>

## **Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned**

Despite their efforts to enhance transparency, both Mexico and Vietnam face challenges related to data protection, information authenticity, and stakeholder engagement. Lessons learned from these case studies may include the importance of adopting comprehensive data protection policies, ensuring the reliability of digital information, and fostering meaningful collaboration between governments and citizens.

62 Beckers L. (2021). Transparency and standardization in using digital patient reported outcome measures (PROMs). Journal of back and musculoskeletal rehabilitation, 34(4), 497–498. https://doi.org/10.3233/BMR215003

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> See. Government of Mexico. (2021). AGREEMENT issuing the National Digital Strategy 20212024. Official Journal of the Federation. September 6, 2021. Retrieved from: https://dof.gob.mx/nota\_detalle.php?codigo=5628886&fecha=06/09/2021#gsc.tab=0

# **Operationalizing the LiTCoDE Framework:**Practical Guidelines for Effective Governance

The LiTCoDE Framework, with its multifaceted pillars of Leadership, Transformative Management, Challenges with Transparency, Digital Exchange, and Evolution, undoubtedly provides a comprehensive structure for understanding and advancing transparent digital governance. Yet, while the theoretical foundation is impressive, practical execution is where many models face challenges. To ensure the LiTCoDE Framework transcends from theory into effective practice, it is essential to provide clear operational guidelines. Here's a deep dive into how we can achieve that: See next Figure 20..

## 1. Leadership and Transparency (Li)

Objective: Promote a leadership style that values and demonstrates transparency.

#### **Practical Steps:**

- Assessment: Begin with an internal audit to gauge the current level of transparency and leadership effectiveness.
- Training: Organize leadership workshops focusing on the importance of transparency, its benefits, and practical ways to embed it in daily operations.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establish regular feedback sessions where team members can voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions without fear of retribution.
- Communication: Ensure all organizational decisions, especially the significant ones, are communicated to all stakeholders, explaining the 'why' behind them.

## 2. Transformative Public Management (T)

Objective: Reinvent traditional managerial practices to become more agile and adaptive.

#### **Practical Steps:**

- Skill Acquisition: Offer courses in agile methodologies, design thinking, and other transformative management practices.
- Pilot Programs: Before a fullscale rollout of new practices, test them in smaller teams or departments to gauge effectiveness and gather feedback.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Involve citizens or endusers in cocreating public services or solutions, ensuring that transformations are usercentric.
- Evaluation Metrics: Define clear KPIs that reflect the desired transformative changes, ensuring that they are realistic and achievable.

## 3. Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange (Co)

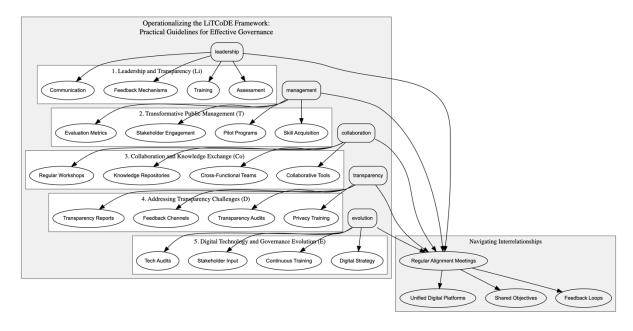
Objective: Foster an environment that encourages collaboration and the free flow of knowledge.

#### **Practical Steps:**

 Collaborative Tools: Invest in digital platforms that facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing, such as Slack, Microsoft Teams, or Trello.

- CrossFunctional Teams: Create project teams with members from various departments to break silos and promote interdisciplinary thinking.
- Knowledge Repositories: Establish centralized digital libraries where team members can access and contribute knowledge resources.
- Regular Workshops: Organize bimonthly or quarterly workshops where departments can present best practices, lessons learned, or innovative solutions.

Figure 20
LiTCoDE Framework Implementation: Practical Guidelines for Effective Governance



Source: Own elaboration

## 4. Addressing Transparency Challenges (D)

Objective: Successfully navigate the challenges posed by transparency, striking a balance between openness and information protection.

#### **Practical Steps:**

- Privacy Training: Educate employees about the importance of data privacy, the dangers of data breaches, and best practices to protect sensitive information.
- Transparency Audits: Conduct regular reviews of transparency efforts to identify areas of improvement and potential risks.
- Feedback Channels: Create anonymous channels where employees and stakeholders can report concerns related to transparency and potential breaches.
- Transparency Reports: Publish annual transparency reports highlighting efforts, challenges faced, and steps taken to address them.

## 5. Digital Technology and Governance Evolution (E)

Objective: Seamlessly integrate digital tools into governance, ensuring continuous evolution in line with technological advancements.

#### **Practical Steps:**

- Digital Strategy: Develop a comprehensive digital strategy outlining the tools, platforms, and technologies to be adopted.
- Continuous Training: As new technologies emerge, offer regular training sessions to ensure all employees are uptodate.
- Stakeholder Input: Engage the public in choosing or designing digital tools, ensuring they
  are userfriendly and meet the users' needs.
- Tech Audits: Periodically review and update technologies to ensure they are current, secure, and effective in delivering desired outcomes.

#### Navigating Interrelationships:

The pillars of the LiTCoDE Framework don't operate in isolation. Their interrelationships amplify their effectiveness. Practical steps to manage these interconnections include:

- Regular Alignment Meetings: Organize monthly alignment meetings where leaders from each pillar can discuss progress, challenges, and ways to support one another.
- Unified Digital Platforms: Use shared platforms where teams from different pillars can collaborate, share knowledge, and resources.
- Shared Objectives: While each pillar has its specific goals, establish a few overarching objectives that all pillars contribute to, ensuring unified efforts.
- Feedback Loops: Create mechanisms where successes or challenges in one pillar can be quickly communicated to others, allowing for realtime adjustments.

The LiTCoDE Framework offers a promising structure for transparent digital governance, its effective operationalization lies in clear, actionable steps that guide its practical implementation. By embedding these guidelines, public entities can navigate the complexities of modern governance, achieving transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency

## **Conclusions**

The journey towards transparent governance in the age of digitalization is multifaceted, reflecting both the opportunities and challenges presented by this era. Drawing upon the corollaries and reflections discussed:

Firstly, the significance of visionary and collaborative leadership in achieving transparent governance is paramount. Nations led by forwardthinking leaders tend to navigate the digital age with a clear vision, seamlessly integrating advanced technologies while upholding values of collaboration and transparency. Leadership in this context is not just about embracing digital tools but fostering an environment where inclusivity, shared learning, and trust are at the forefront.

This aligns with the observation that transformational public management correlates strongly with a nation's adaptability and resilience against the digital age's challenges. Resilience, in this sense, is not only about technological robustness but also about a nation's ability to adapt its strategies based on continuous learning and understanding of the evolving digital landscape.

Additionally, the culture of mutual learning and transnational collaboration plays an indispensable role in fortifying nations against pressing challenges, such as the proliferation of misinformation. The more interconnected nations become, bound by shared objectives and aspirations, the more fortified they are in the face of adversities. These networks of mutual support and collaborative solutions act as a bulwark against threats and accelerate collective progress.

Equitable access to technology is another cornerstone. This goes beyond merely increasing connectivity. It also concerns ensuring that all segments of society, especially marginalized groups, have access to the digital world. By doing so, nations not only enhance inclusivity but also improve the overall quality and security of information circulating within their digital ecosystem.

However, as the digital age continues to amplify global interconnectedness, it also casts a spotlight on existing gaps, inequalities, and challenges in global governance. Therefore, valuing and safeguarding data security and information integrity becomes crucial. A nation that prioritizes these aspects positions itself more strongly in the global arena, commanding trust and respect from its peers.

Reflecting upon the Vietnamese and Mexican examples, it's evident that countries are making strides in ensuring digital transparency, fostering inclusivity, and integrating technology into various sectors for holistic development. While the exact impacts and efficacies might vary, the shared global commitment is evident.

In conclusion, the digital age, with all its intricacies, presents nations with an opportunity to redefine their governance structures and societal norms. Transparent governance, in this era, is not a destination but a continuous journey. It demands adaptability, mutual learning, and above all, a commitment to ensuring a clearer, fairer society. The road ahead, while challenging, is promising for those nations that choose to embrace these principles with sincerity and vision.

The digital era presents both challenges and opportunities for enhancing transparency and accountability in public management. Effective leadership and transformative public management strategies are crucial for navigating transparency crises and leveraging digital technologies to promote good governance. Leadership and transformative public management play essential roles in addressing transparency crises, fostering innovation, collaboration, and adaptability in the face of complex challenges.m As the digital landscape continues to evolve, the importance of leadership and transformative public management in promoting transparency and accountability in governance will remain paramount.

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